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ABSTRACT

Over 60 art activities, designed to enhance environmental awareness and incorporate environmental concepts, are outlined in this document. A sample of the activities presented are: decorated notepaper and cards with feathers or weeds; wall plaques of prairie plants; methods of flower preservation; water plant prints; construction of dolls, fairies, Christmas ornaments, and birds from milkweeds; bottle decorations; insect drawings; and driftwood decorations. These activities are an outgrowth of an outdoor studies program of Chester Area Schools (South Dakota). This work was prepared under an ESEA Title III contract. (JP)

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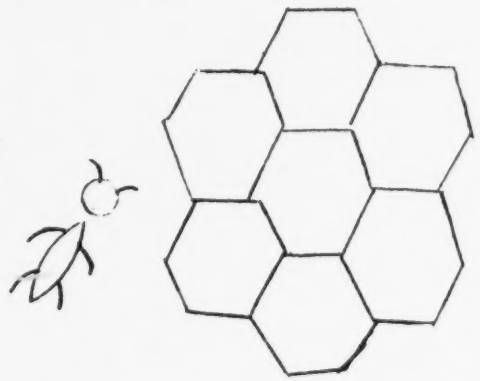

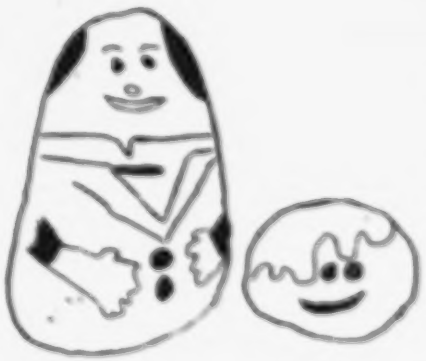

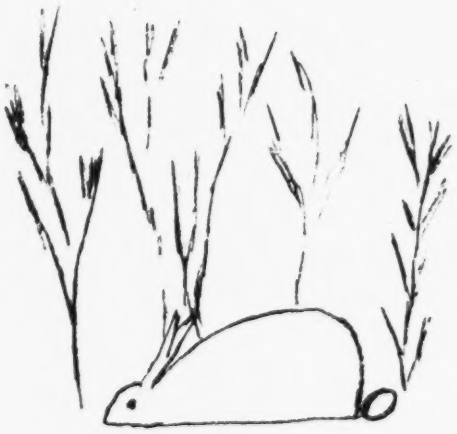

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NATURE'S ART

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FOREWARD

Paul Errington, one of the patron saints of the wildlife management profession, used a short phrase to explain the unorthodox methods and unpredictability of Mother Nature. It goes like this, "Nature's way is any way that works." We have found in the discharge of our teaching duties, that using nature in the outdoor classrooms has helped us make our teaching "work" better for us. We have watched children develop better attitudes and awareness about the world that surrounds them. We have also watched and participated in a more efficient learning process with our children using the familiar tools of life that surround us.

Nature's Art is an example of the serendipity we have enjoyed in the pursuit of our outdoor studies. The question of what do we do with the materials we have collected after we have finished the primary objectives of our lesson kept coming up. Nature's Art is a collection of projects which we have used to "put the frosting on the cake." Call them a collection of terminators to outdoor studies, call them anything you wish, but try them.

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DECORATED NOTEPAPER AND CARDS

Grade level-1-8

MATERIALS:

pressed leaves, flowers, weeds, etc.
paper
glue
scissors

PROCEDURE:

Fold or cut construction paper or stationery into the size and shape of a card. Glue leaves or flowers to the paper. Saran wrap or clear plastic can be used to cover the card front.

1.

Fold paper into the size and shape desired.

2.

Glue leaves and/or flowers to the paper.

DECORATED NOTEPAPER AND CARDS WITH FEATHERS

Grade level-3-8

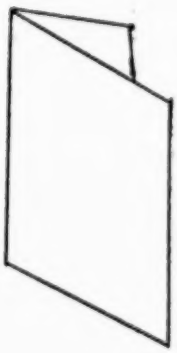
MATERIALS:

feathers
glue
paper
scissors

PROCEDURE:

Fold or cut paper into the size and shape of a card. Cut the feathers so the tops are like flower petals. Arrange 6 to 8 of the same colored feathers in a circle like petals of a flower. When the feather flowers have been arranged, put drops of glue in the center of the flower. Make sure all the feathers have enough glue to be secure. For large feathers, glue along the vein of the feather. With a felt pen, make the stem and leaves.

1.



Fold or cut paper into the size and shape desired.

2.

Arrange and glue the feather flowers to the card.

DECORATED NOTEPAPER WITH WEEDS

Grade level-1-8

MATERIALS:

paper
weeds or leaves
crayons

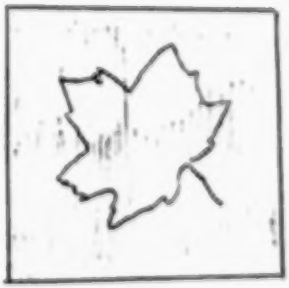
PROCEDURE:

Notepaper can also be made by the coloring of the notepaper. By coloring hard, the imprint of the plant will be in the colored area. Have each pupil make 6-12 sheets of stationery and give them as a gift.

1.

Lay a sheet of paper over the leaf.

2.



With crayons, color hard over the entire sheet. The leaf will leave its imprint.

DECORATED CALENDAR

Grade level -1-8

PURPOSE:

This is a colorful gift and a beautiful reminder of nature.

MATERIALS:
calendar of the new year
construction paper
items to decorate with such as feathers, leaves, weeds, etc.

PROCEDURE:

For a gift, use the new calendar and decorate it. Glue the calendar on construction paper, then above the calendar on the construction paper, arrange weeds, plants or feathers.

1.

Glue calendar on construction paper.

2.

Arrange weeds, plants and anything else desired around the calendar.

DECORATED GIFT BOX

Grade level-3-8

PURPOSE:

This will show the students the abundant colors of bird feathers.

MATERIALS:

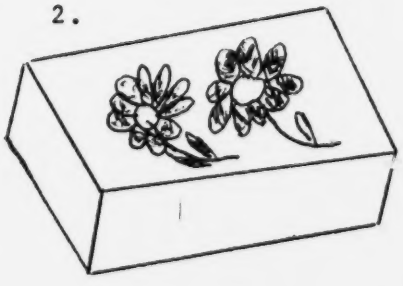
feathers
glue
felt pen
plain wrapping paper or construction paper

PROCEDURE;

Trim six or eight feathers of the same color to make flower petals. Glue them in a floral arrangement to a package with plain paper. To insure that the feathers will stay in place, put a drop of glue in the center of each flower. The stems and leaves can be drawn with a felt pen or trim more feathers and glue them in place.

1.

Trim feathers to petals of flowers.

2. 

Glue the feather flowers to a gift.

USING SEEDS

(Use with Autumn Seeds and Bur Activity)

Grade-level-2-6

PURPOSE:

To use seeds in a practical and enjoyable manner.

MATERIALS:

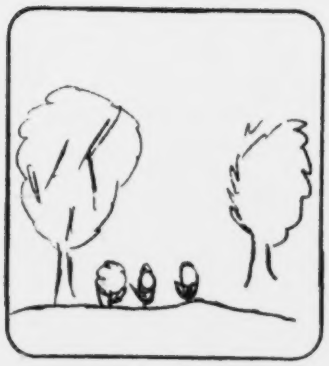
seeds collected on a field trip
art paper
cardboard
glue

PROCEDURE:

After the students have studied the seeds from their field trips have them begin using some of them to make an interesting pictures. First, draw a picture; then squeeze glue in a small area. Sprinkle the glued area with the desired seeds. Working in small areas will prevent the glue from drying out before the seeds are put on the picture. If colored paper is glued to the cardboard, the picture will be sturdier. Use the seeds to draw attention to particular parts of the picture. Seeds may be used as tree leaves, parachutes, animals or faces.
Thanksgiving cards can be made with seeds by folding a piece of paper in half and making a picture on the outside. A short message might be printed on the inside. For example:

On Thanksgiving morning
It's hard to stay
Out of the kitchen
Out of the way.

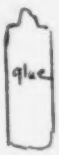
1.



Draw a picture.

2.

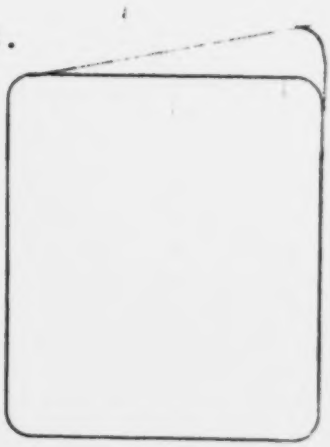
Apply glue to part of the picture.



3.

Sprinkle or apply seeds to the picture.

4.



To make card fold paper in half first. Draw picture on outside. Write verse inside.

BOOKMARKER

Grade-level-1-8

PURPOSE:

To make a creative bookmarker using nature.

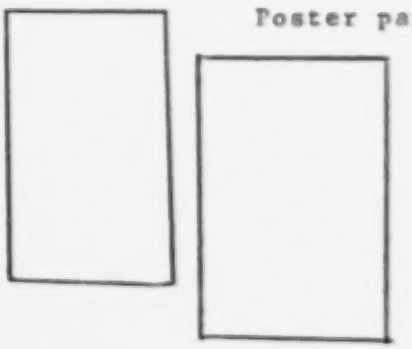
MATERIALS:

pressed flowers, weeds, or leaves.
cellophane paper
poster paper
clear contact paper

PROCEUDRE:

Cut the poster paper and clear contact paper into the size bookmarker you want but cut the contact paper a little larger. Arrange the flowers, leaves or weeds on the poster paper. Place the clear contact paper on top of the poster paper and arrangement.

1.



Cut poster paper and contact paper to the desired size.

contact paper

2.

Arrange flowers, leaves, or weeds on the poster paper.
Cover with contact paper.

WALL PLAQUE OF PRAIRIE PLANT
(Use with Autumn Seed and Bur Activity
and/or Prairie Plants and Fire)

Grade-level-3-6

PURPOSE:

The art of arranging teaches students balance, color and gives them an opportunity for self-expression.

MATERIALS:

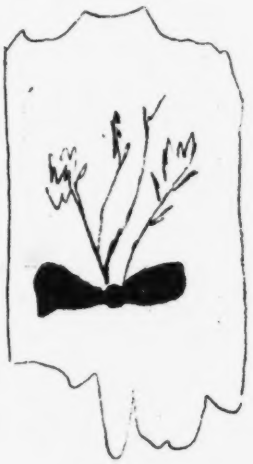
ribbon
wood board--does not have to be new
the size of the board will depend upon the plants used
prairie plants
wall hanger

PROCEDURE:

The wood board may be stained or left unfinished, depending upon what the students want. The prairie plants must go through a preserving method which can be found on the next two pages. Arranging the plants is the most difficult part. Remind students that balance and color is important in an arrangement. The stems of the plants may be hidden with a ribbon or something interesting that adds beauty to the arrangement. To make the plants stay in place, glue them to the board.

1. Select a board, stain or leave it unfinished.

2. Preserve the plants.

3. 

Glue arrangement to the board.

METHODS OF FLOWER PRESEVATION
(Use with Prairie Plants and Fire)

WARM SAND METHOD

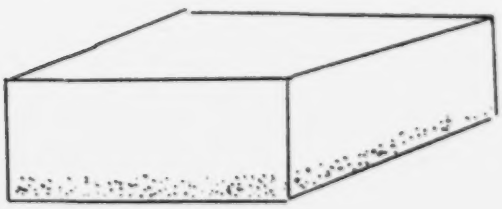
MATERIALS:

sand
cardboard box
fresh flowers or leaves

PROCEDURE:

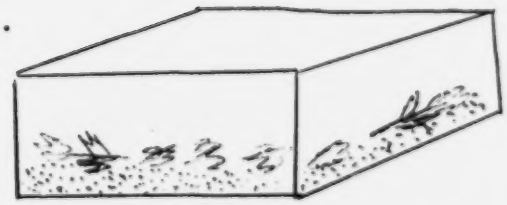
Place a layer of warm sand in the bottom of a cardboard box. Lay fresh leaves and flowers, stem end down, in a single layer on the sand. Gently sift additional warm sand over the flowers until each flower is entirely covered.
Allow the flowers to dry thoroughly. If the flowers are left at room temperature, it will take about 2½ weeks to dry. To speed up the process, the box may be placed in a warm (100-125 degree) oven for 12 to 24 hours.
Cut a hole on the bottom of the box, and shake gently to remove most of the sand. Lift the flowers from the box gently, and shake off any remaining sand.
The flowers will retain their original shapes and colors.

1.



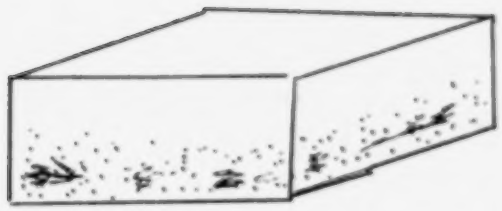
Place a layer of warm sand on the bottom of a box.

2.



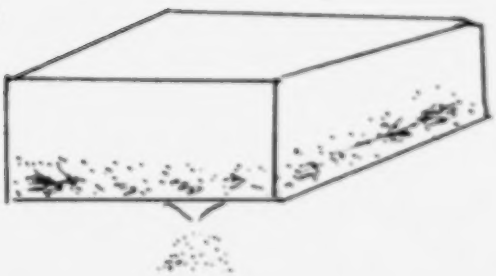
Lay the flowers and leaves on the sand.

3.



Sift sand on the flowers until each plant is covered. Let dry for 2½ weeks.

4.



Cut a hole in the bottom of the box and shake gently to remove the sand.

5.

The flowers will retain their shape and color.

WAXED FLOWERS

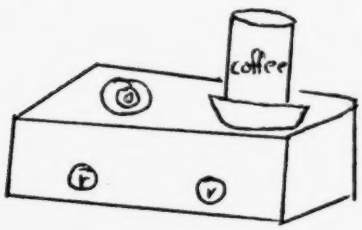
MATERIALS:

coffee can
flat pan of water
hot plates
old candles and/or paraffin
fresh flowers and leaves

PROCEDURE:

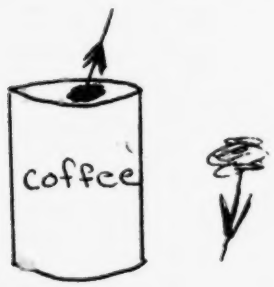
Place a coffee can in a flat pan of water on a hot plate. Cut shavings or chunks of paraffin or old candles into the coffee can. You will need 2-3 pounds of paraffin. The leftover paraffin can be used for making candles or wax sculptures.
Turn the hot plate on low. When the paraffin has melted completely, remove the can from the heat and allow the liquid to cool to lukewarm. Holding a flower or leaf by the stem end, dip it into the melted paraffin and swish it around several times. Turn the flower right side up and allow the paraffin to harden.
Now the flower stem may be clipped with a spring type clothespin to a line to dry thoroughly or the flower may be immersed in ice water to make the paraffin harden quickly.
The finished product has a definite waxy appearance. This is an especially attractive method or preserving fall flowers and leaves.

1.



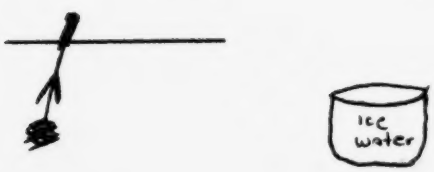
Put paraffin in a coffee can on a hot plate.

2.



After the paraffin is melted and cooled to lukewarm, dip the flower or plant into the wax.
Then tip the plant and let the wax run down over the plant.

3.



Either clip the plant to a clothesline or dip it in ice water to harden the wax.

PRESSED FLOWERS

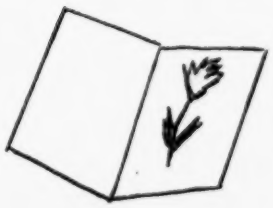
MATERIALS:

fresh flowers or leaves
old books with very absorbant paper (a comic book is perfect)

PROCEDURE:

Place flowers between the pages of a book. Lay the book on a flat surface, and weight it down with additional books. From time to time during the drying process, move the flowers to fresh pages of the book to prevent mold from forming.
The flowers will be perfectly flat when dried, and just right for mounting in booklets and bulletin boards.

1.



Place the flowers between the pages of a book.

2.

Weight the book down with additional books.

3.

Move the flowers to fresh pages to prevent molding.

4.

Remove the flowers, they should be perfectly flat.

PICTURES TO TOUCH AND FEEL

Grade-level-K-6

PURPOSE:

To make students aware of the insect and his home.

MATERIALS:

construction paper
insect and insect homes (wasp and hive for example)

PROCEDURE:

After collecting the insects and their homes, kill the insect being careful not to hurt any of his appendages. Put the collected items on a big sheet of paper. Twigs, bark, leaves, and pieces of grass may be added to give the proper affect. Now staple or tape them on the paper. Hang the collage on the wall for display.

1.

Collect items on a field trip.

2.

Arrange the items on a sheet of paper. Paste, tape or staple them in place.

PLANT BRUSHES

(Use with Autumn Seed and Bur Activity)

Grade-level-K-3

PURPOSE:

To show students that nature can provide useful instruments to work with in art.

MATERIALS:

paper
tempera paint
prairie plants

PROCEDURE:

Use the prairie plants as a paint brush. Some plants can be used for splatter painting when they are wet. Make sure there are plenty of newspapers on the floor when splatter painting. Prairie plants wet with paint may be pressed on the paper to leave plant prints.

1.

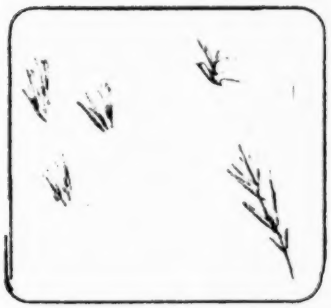
Use plants for paint brushes.

2.

Paint a picture with the plants.

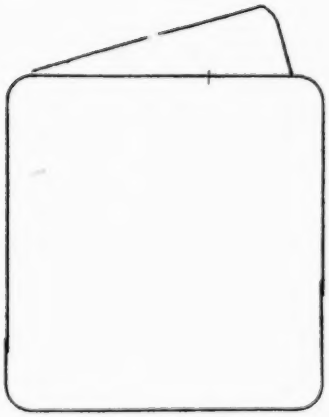
PLANT BRUSHES (cont.)

3.



Use them for splatter painting, hitting the paper with the plant to leaves it print.

4.



Press wet plants between paper. The plant will leave its print.

PLANT SPRAYING

Grade-Level-3-8

PURPOSE:

This activity will show the silhouette differences in leaves and plants.

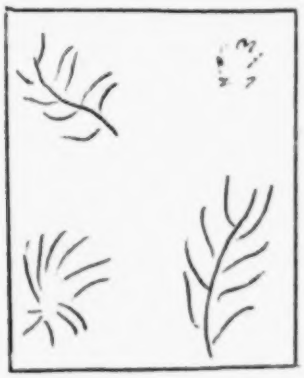
MATERIALS:

spray paint
white or light colored paper
prairie plants

PROCEDURE:

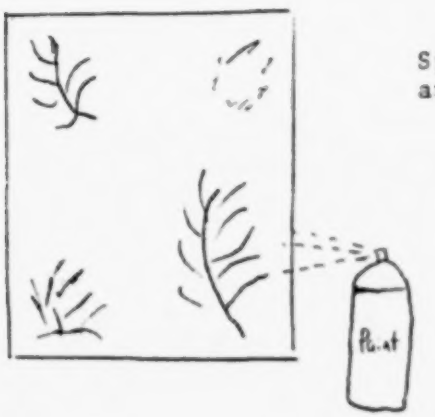
On the field trip, take paper and spray paint. Collect plants that are flat and have large stems and arrange them on the paper. Spray lightly on the top of the plants and paper. On very windy days this is too difficult to do.

1.



Arrange the plants on paper.

2.



Spray lightly over the plants and paper.

3.

Take off the plants. This is your silhouette. Mount it on colored paper or arrange several in a collage.

SPRAY PAINT ON FIELD TRIPS

SPIDER WEBS

Grade-level-1-6

PURPOSE:

To show the differences between spider webs.

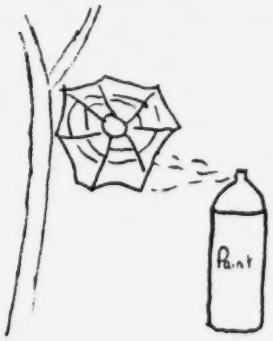
MATERIALS:

spray paint
white paper
spider webs

PROCEDURE:

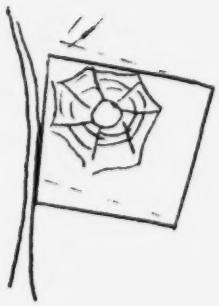
Find a spider web outside on the bushes or fences. Spray the web with paint until it is completely covered. Quickly before the paint dries, press the spider web between the white paper. Put two or more spider webs on one sheet of paper so they can be compared. Warn the students to look at the spray can, check where the paint comes out before spraying. The students must also be careful that others are not within spraying area before spraying.

1.



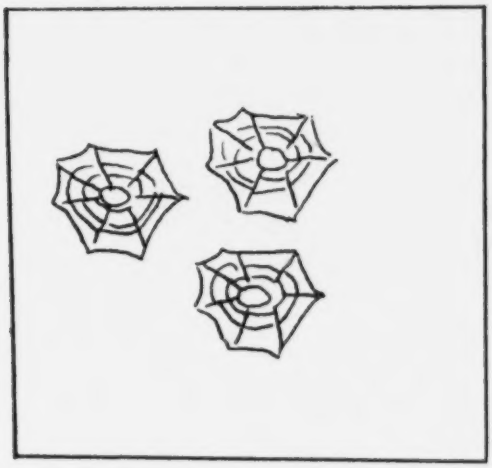
Spray, paint on the web.

2.



Press the web between the white paper.

3.



Arrange two or three on a piece of paper.

WATER PLANT PRINTS

Grade level-3-8

PURPOSE:

To use water plants to make an interesting design.

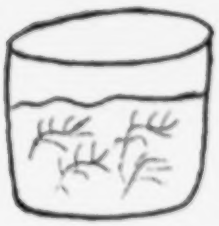
MATERIALS:

white paper (drawing or typing paper)
water plants
buckets

PROCEDURE:

This activity needs careful, neat work and when the print is finished it will look like a very delicate watercolor sketch, well worth framing.
Take a bucket to the pond and fill it with clear water. Then try to find some water plants and put them in the bucket. These plants can be worked near the pond or taken to the classroom. Separate them from each other by hand, being careful not to break them. Keep the plants in the water while doing this. Remove every bit of sand, soil, or other foreign objects. While the plants are still in the water, gently lower a sheet of paper into the water. Move it around under one of the water plants. Then raise it gently tilting it just enough to let the water run off. Before the water is all off, maneuver the plants into a graceful design on the paper. Then place the paper on a flat surface and let it dry. The plants will stick to the paper with its juices and make a lovely print.
Two or three of these prints in similar frames makes a lovely wall grouping.

1.



Fill the bucket with clear water
Put some water plants in the water
Separate the water plants
Remove soil and sand

WATER PLANT PRINT (cont.)

2.

Lower the paper into the water
Move the paper under the water plants
Arrange plants to the desired design

3.

Lay the paper on a flat surface
Let dry

RUSSIAN THISTLE TREE
(tumbleweed)
(Prairie Plants and Fire)

Grade-level-1-8

PURPOSE:

This is an easy and thrifty way to have a Christmas tree to enjoy in the classroom.

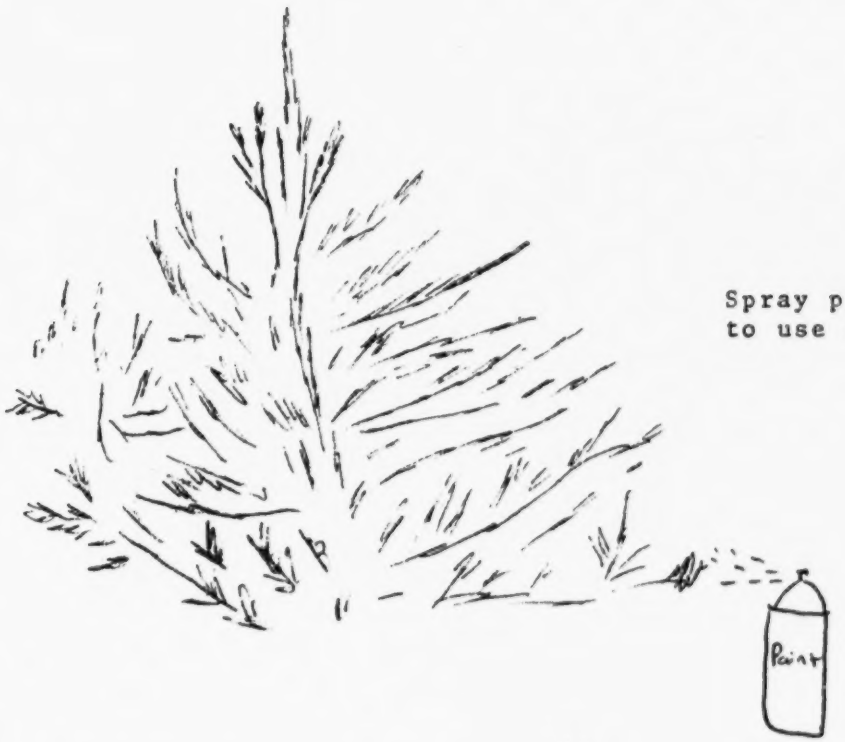
MATERIALS:

Russian thistle
spray paint or snow

PROCEDURE:

For the classroom use a Russian thistle for a Christmas tree. They can be gotten in a variety of shapes and sizes. The stem of the Russian thistle may be broken so that it sets on the branches or may be set in a Christmas tree holder. Then, spray the tree outside in a sheltered area or in a corner of the room that has been lined with paper. Then decorated the thistle like a Christmas tree.

1.



Spray paint a Russian thistle to use as a Christmas tree.

RUSSIAN THISTLE TREE (cont.)

2.

Decorate the thistle with lights and decorations.

CENTERPIECES

Grade level -5-8

PURPOSE:

To develop a sense of balance and color

MATERIALS:

dish
clay or styroform
cattails, pheasant feathers or plants

PROCEDURE:

Place clay or styrofoam at the bottom of the dish. Then arrange cattails,long pheasant feathers and/or plants into a pleasing arrangement.

SANDWICH TRAY

Grade-level-6-8

PURPOSE:

To make a colorful plate using nature.

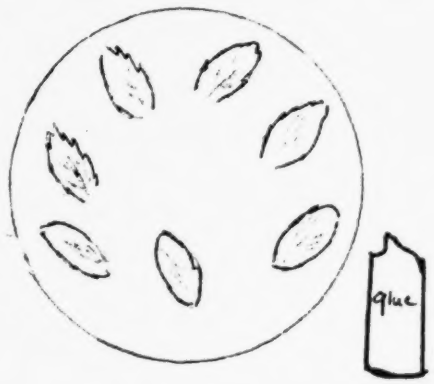
MATERIALS:

old plate or dish
varnish and brush
pressed leaves or flowers

PROCEDURE:

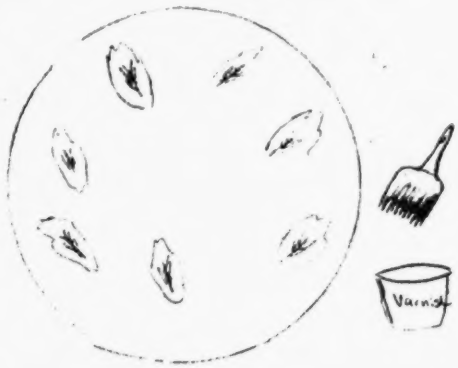
To make a sandwich plate, have each student bring an old plate from home. If the color of the plate is not desirable, enamel paint will cover, but two or three coats may be desirable. Carefully glue pressed leaves and flowers to the dish. The better the gluing and the closer to the plate the plants can be glued, the easier it will be to varnish. After gluing, press the plants and allow the glue to dry for a day or more.
After the glue has dried, then varnish all of the plate. Put one layer of varnish on every day until all of the plants seem to be part of the dish. The varnishing may take up to two weeks.

1.



Glue leaves and/or flowers to the dish. Allow to dry for a day or more.

2.



Varnish the plate every day for about two weeks.

HANGING BOUQUETS

Grade level-1-8

PURPOSE:

To study balance and color in arranging.

MATERIALS:
weeds
paper cup or small foil pan
colored cardboard or construction paper
clay, glue, or styrofoam

PROCEDURE:

Gather seeds and air-dry them on newspapers. Cut a paper cup or small foil pan in two. Glue or scotch tape one half to a colored cardboard background. Arrange the dried plants in the container. Anchor them in clay or use white glue to keep them in place.

1.

Cut a paper cup in half.

2.

Glue or tape one half of the cup to cardboard.

3.

Arrange the dried plants in the container.

MAKING MILKWEEDS USEFUL
(Use with Autumn Seed and Bur Activity)

Grade level-K-6

PURPOSE:

To use the milkweed in an enjoyable and creative manner.

MATERIALS:

milkweed seed pods and seeds
cardboard sheets of various sizes
glue
tempera

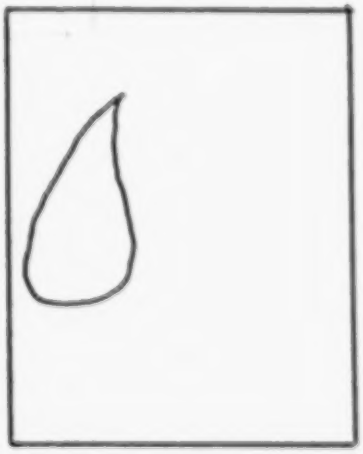
PROCEDURE:

Let the children use their own creativity as far as possible in seeing what can be done with the old empty seed pods. There will always be some children who will fail to produce anything original. The following suggestions might help.

MILKWEED DOLL

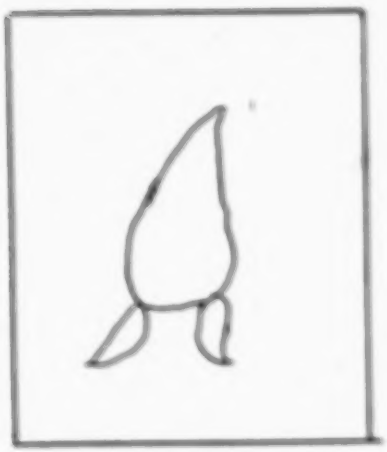
Place on the cardboard half of a large empty seed pod, with the rounded part down, and glue down tightly for the body. Use a smaller pod and glue each half into place for legs. The arms will be made from a pod that is smaller than the pods used for legs, or if they are hard to find cut a pod into quarters. Draw the face of the doll, and for hair use the seeds. Use two seeds for each foot and one seed for each hand. Paint as desired.

1



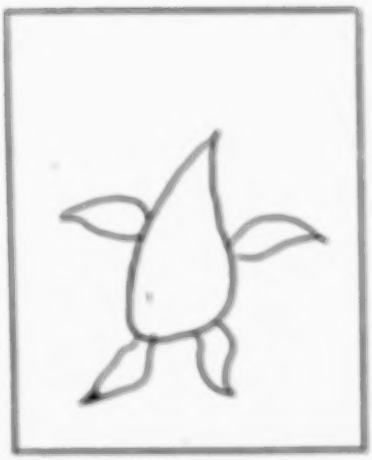
Place on a cardboard half of a large pod.

2.



Use smaller pods for the legs.

3.



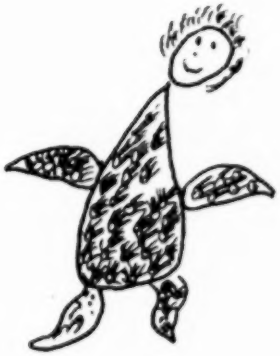
Smaller pods or pods cut into quarters are used for the arms.

4.

Draw in the face.
Add seeds for the hair.
Two seeds for each foot can be used.
One seed for each hand can be used.

MILKWEED FAIRIES

Milkweed fairies may be made by gluing the winged seeds to cardboard to cover the outline of a fairy's dress previously drawn.



Make the milkweed doll as shown before.

For her dress glue winged seeds on.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

Pod halves may be painted or lined with cloth material and then filled with small objects such as a Christmas ball, doll, flower, etc. String may be inserted so that the pod can hang from the Christmas tree.

A pod may be decorated and then filled with different objects.

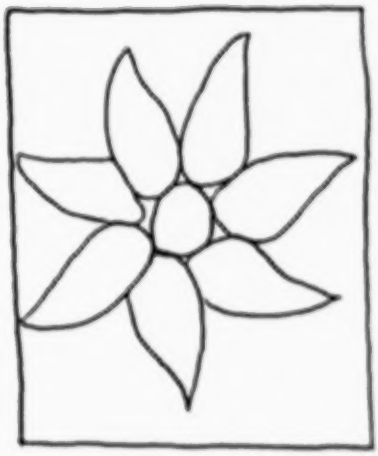
or

A pod may be decorated so that it can hang from the Christmas tree.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

Arrange the pod halves on a cardboard in the shape of a poinsettia blossom, leaving a center an inch in diameter. Use half a pod for each petal. Paint the pods bright red and glue into place. Rur yarn down to form a stem with leaves. If green yarn is not available, soak the yarn in green paint and let dry before using. Glue the beads, balls or buttons in the center. Arrange two or three flowers in a cluster on a large cardboard. Paint the cardboard before using if a white backing is desired.

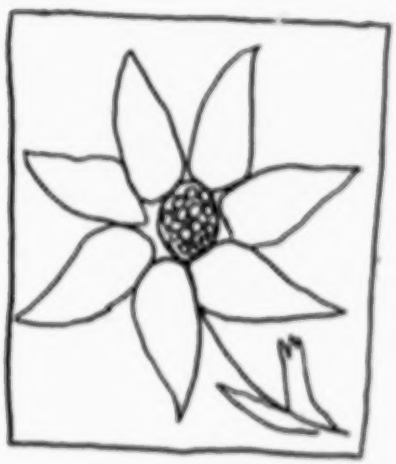
1.



Using half a pod for each petal arrange them to look like a poinsettia blossom.

Leave the center an inch in diameter.

2.



Use green yarn for the stem and leaves.

Glue the beads, balls or buttons in the center.

MILKWEED POD BIRDS

Grade-level-1-8

PURPOSE:

To make a creative and colorful bird out of a milkweed pod.

MATERIALS:

Milkweed pods
sciasors
tempera paint and brush
glue

PROCEDURE:

Cut a milkweed pod in half up to the stem to make wings for the bird. Place the wings on another milkweed pod which is the body. The stem of the milkweed body may be used for the head of a smaller milkweed. Glue the head and wings to the body. Tempera paint or spray paint may be used to finish the body. If tempera paint is used, two coats will be necessary. These milkweed pod birds look nice on a man's gift.

1.

Cut a milkweed pod in half, for the wings.

2.

Glue the pod cut in half on each side of another pod.

3.

Paint the pod and features.

BOXES

(Use with Let's Study Litter)

Grade-level-K-6

PURPOSE:

Activities like these will give students ideas on how to make boxes useful rather than just litter.

MATERIALS:

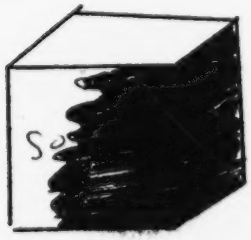
boxes
brown wrapping paper
scissors
paste and/or cellophane tape
staples
tempera paint
brushes
colored construction paper
straight pins

PROCEDURE:

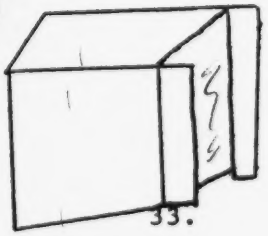
Totem Pole

The totem pole may be used for table displays or giant cartons for life sized totem pole.
Wrap each box in brown paper (old grocery bags, cut apart work well also) or paint each box with tempera paint. If tempera paint does not cover the printing of the boxes, add a little soap to the paint so it will adhere.
Then decorate each box to resemble a face. Decorations may be painted on or cut from construction paper and pasted in place.
Stack the boxes to form a totem pole. The boxes may be pinned together with straight pins to keep from tumbling.

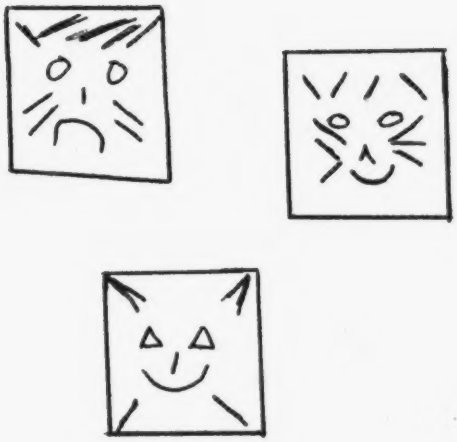
1.



Cover or paint each box.

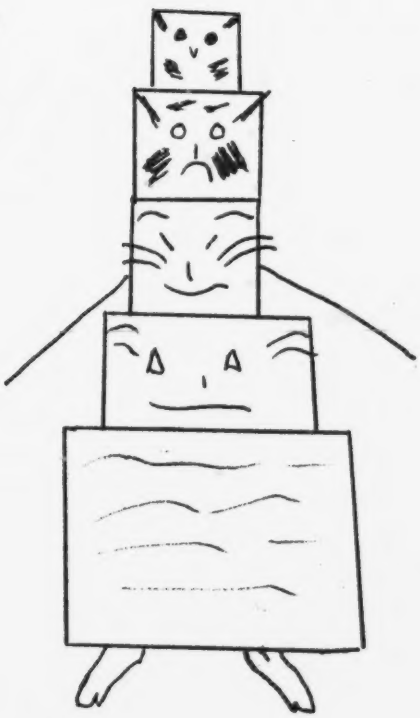


2.



Decorate each box to resemble a face.

3.



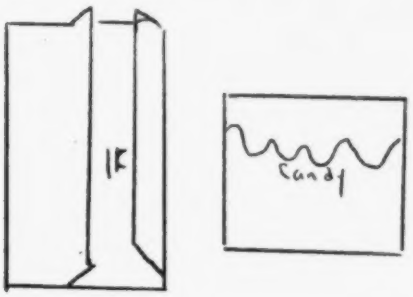
Stack the boxes to form a totem pole.

The boxes may be pinned together with straight pins to keep from tumbling.

BUILDINGS:

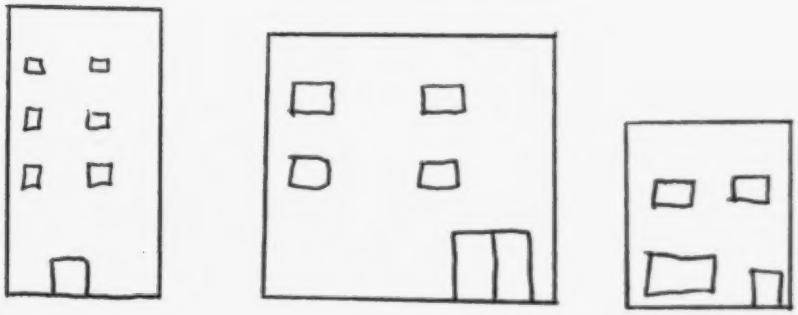
Some tall and slender boxes for skyscrapers, some short and square to represent one-story buildings and homes, etc. Wrap each box in paper, or paint each box with tempera paint. Then, begin by cutting shapes from colored paper. Whole villages can be constructed for a table top display by using small boxes. Perhaps children could make a reproduction of their own neighborhood or some historical site.

1.



Paint or cover each box.

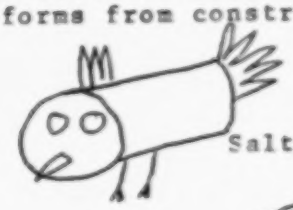
2.



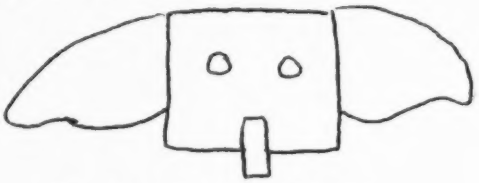
Decorate each box to look like a building.

ANIMALS AND TOYS

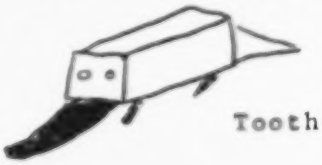
Experiment with a group of boxes, fitting them together in various combinations, until their shape suggests an animal or toy. Cover each of the boxes to be used with brown wrapping paper or paint each box with tempera paint. Fasten the boxes together with masking tape or straight pins. Facial features such as ears, tails, wheels, or whatever decorations are needed may be added on the tempera paint or cut forms from construction paper and paste it in place.



Salt Box Chicken



Square Box Elephant

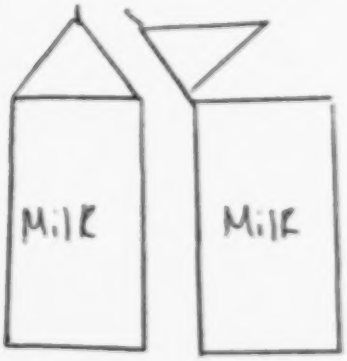


Toothpaste Box Creature

BUILDING BLOCKS

(Made from milk cartons) Cut the pyramid-shaped tops from the ends of two paper milk cartons. Putting the two ends together fit one carton inside of the other. This makes a very sturdy building block.
Each block may be wrapped in brown wrapping paper, or painted with tempera paint (add soap flakes to the paint to make it stick to the carton) or perhaps contact paper of some type or vinyl covering could be used to make the blocks more attractive. Make as many blocks as needed.

1.



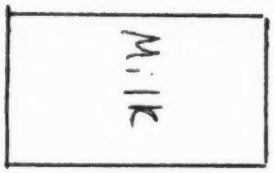
Cut the pyramid-shaped tops from the boxes.

2.

Fit one box into the other.

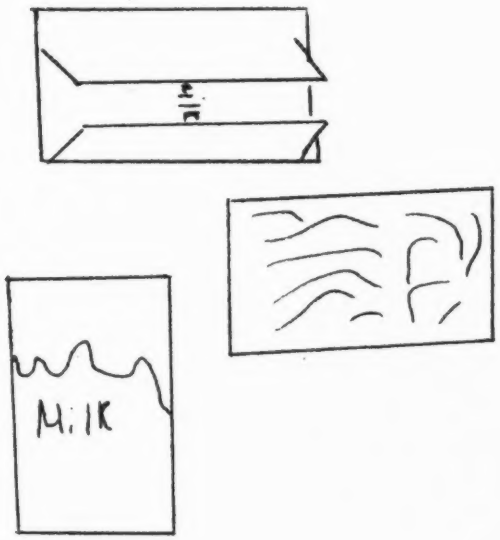
BUILDING BLOCKS (cont.)

3.



Push them together.

4.



Cover the blocks with wrapping paper or paint the blocks or cover them with contact paper.

TIN CAN CHARACTERS

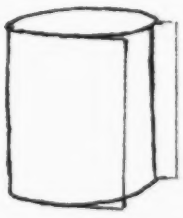
MATERIALS:

tin cans
construction paper or tissue paper
glue

PROCEDURE:

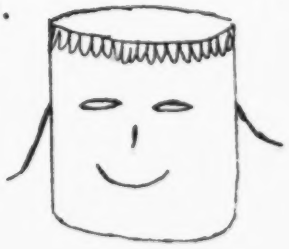
Make characters developed from tin cans. Tissue paper or construction paper can be pasted on first. The students imagination can be tested by finding ways to create heads, hats, features, appendages and clothing.

1.



Cover the can with construction paper or tissue paper.

2.



Add the features.
Let the students use their imaginations.

BLEACH BOTTLES
(Use with Let's Study Litter)

BIRD HOUSE

Grade level-4-6

PURPOSE:

This activity not only helps prevent litter, but can also stimulate interest in birds.

MATERIALS:

thoroughly rinsed bleach bottles
scissors
twigs
string

PROCEDURE:

Cut a round hole a few inches from the bottom of the bottle. This will be the door in the bird house, so it should be cut to the appropriate size for the bird that you wish to attract. Punch a small hole and insert the twig to be used as a perch. Hang the bird house by a string looped through the handle of the bottle. Make decorations on the house by painting pictures---perhaps pictures of worms, bugs, and other things that the children feel the birds would enjoy seeing.

1.

Cut a round hole a few inches from the bottom.

2.

Insert a twig, to be used as a perch, just below the hole.

3.

Decorate the house as desired.

DECORATED BOTTLES
(Use with Let's Study Litter)

MOSAIC

Grade Level -K-4

PURPOSE:

Activities like these will give students ideas on how to make bottles of different shapes useful.

MATERIALS:

a bottle of interesting shape
colored paper (Mosaic pieces may be cut from a colored magazine page)
scissors
paste
shellac

PROCEDURE:

Cut small pieces from colored paper. Paste them on the bottle in a mosaic pattern. Paint the finished bottle with shellac for a durable finish.

1.

Cut small shapes from colored paper.

2.

Paste on a bottle in a mosaic pattern.
Shellac the bottle to finish it.

PAINT

MATERIALS:

transparent bottles
several colors of enamel paint

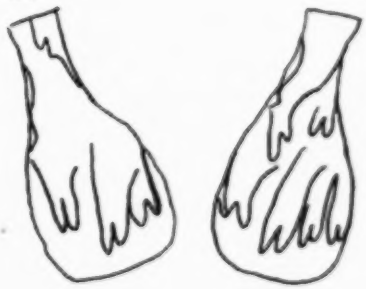
PROCEDURE:

Pour about a tablespoon of enamel paint inside of the bottles. Then tilt and tip the bottle so that the paint will run up the sides of the bottle and repeat. The second color should fill in some of the area left clear by the first color.
Repeat this process using as many colors as necessary to produce the desired effect.
The teacher may want to organize this activity by using a plastic spoon for every paint and allowing a few students at a time to decorate their bottles.

1.

Pour the paint into the bottle.

2.



Tilt the bottle back and forth, so the paint will run.

3. Repeat steps one and two with other colors.

STRING WRAP

MATERIALS:

a bottle
glue
colored string
yarn or raffia
shellac

PROCEDURE:

Apply glue to the bottle, starting at the neck, and continuing for about an inch downward. Wrap colored string around this area, tucking in the end of the string and covering it as you wrap. Apply glue to the bottle on the next section and continue wrapping. Repeat until the bottle is totally covered. Use a variety of colors for a pleasing stripped effect.
If a smooth finished cord or string is used, apply a coat of shellac for a durable finish. Do not apply shellac over yarn. The yarn mats and looks quite bedraggled.
When using shellac, brushes must be cleaned with rubbing alcohol.

1.

Apply glue to the bottle, sections at a time.

2.

Wrap string around the bottle. If cord or string is used apply shellac. Yarn should not be shellacked.

BOTTLE DOLLS

MATERIALS:

a large bottle
newspaper
paper towel
papier-mache'
paste or wallpaper paste
scissors
pins
glue
decorative materials

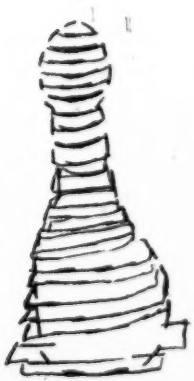
PROCEDURE:

Wad newspaper into a ball, cover it with another sheet of newspaper and tie this on top of a bottle. This will be the "head" of the doll. Soak newspaper with paste and cover the bottle and crushed newspaper with them. Build up several layers of strips and then add extra final layer; they form a plain surface that is easy to paint over.
By painting and decorating the papier-mache' figure, it can turn into an enchanted princess, an evil sorceses, a soldier, or a native of a far away land. Sewing scraps, giftwraps supplies, things like colored yarn, fabric samples, crepe paper, ribbon, and other trimmings can decorate the bottle doll. After the papier-mache' figures have been painted and shellacked to make eyeglasses, hair and clothing out of different materials. Use pins and glue to hold these materials in place.

1.

Make a newspaper ball and place on top of a bottle.

2.



Cover the bottle with the "soaked newspaper" (papier-mache').

BOTTLE DOLLS (cont.)

3.

Put a final, smooth layer on the bottle.

4.

Paint and decorate the figure.

FISHY FINGER PAINTING
(Use with Fishless Aquarium)

Grade-level-K-2

PURPOSE:

To make the students aware of the water dwellers.

MATERIALS:

finger paints
paper
crayons
paste

PROCEDURE:

After students have finger painted many may look like underwater scenes. Crayon bright colored water dwellers on manila paper. Cut them out and paste sections of them down on the painting, leaving other parts "humped up" by making paper springs under the colorful water dwellers.

1.

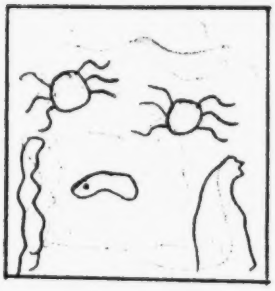
Finger paint.

2.

On a separate sheet of paper crayon bright colored water dwellers, cut the water dwellers out.

FISHY FINGER PAINTING (Cont.)

3.



Paste the water dwellers to the finger painting.

To make the spring cut two pieces of paper ½" by 5".
Glue the two pieces of paper.

Fold back and forth until at the end.
Paste these to the back of a water dweller and then to the finger painting. It will give the dwellers a humped up effect.

AQUARIUM DIORAMA
(Use with Fishless Aquarium)

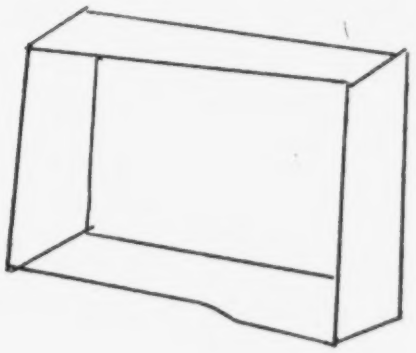
Grade-level-3-6

MATERIALS:

shoe box or another cardboard box
construction paper
scissors
paste
stapler

PROCEDURE:

After studying fishless aquariums, explain to the pupils that they can make an aquarium in a box by using construction paper for the plants and animals.
Cut the lid from the cardboard box. Have the students cut out background scenery from construction paper and paste it in the interior walls of the box. Have them design their diorama to look like the inside of an aquarium.
Cut the figures and scenery from construction paper, placing each piece within the box in proper position to form the desired scene. Each figure is cut with a tab at the base. The tab is then folded back and glued to the box to keep the figure in place.
To give the feeling of flowing water, paper springs can be made between the objects and the background. A paper frame adds a nice finishing touch to the scene.

1. 

Cover the inside of the box.

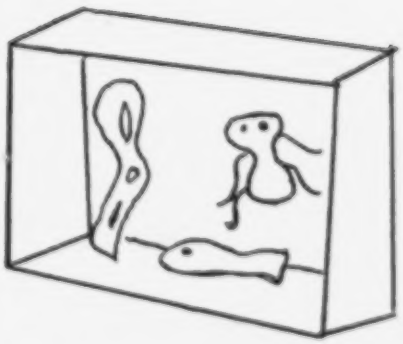
AQURIUM DIORAMA (cont.)

2.

Cut figures and scenery from construction paper.

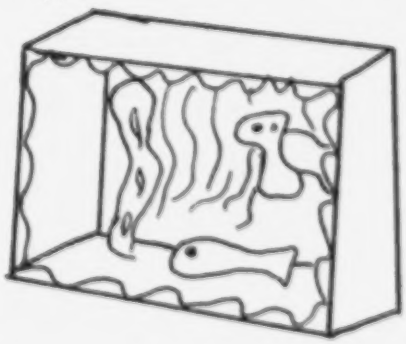
Cut each figure with a tab.

3.



Glue the figures in place.

4.



Add a frame and colored threads to complete your Aquarium Diorama.

FISHLESS AQUARIUM WITH WAX PAPER

Grade-level-K-6

PURPOSE:

To help pupils realize the colors in an aquarium.

MATERIALS:

wax paper
colored tissue paper
scissors
colored paper
colored thread

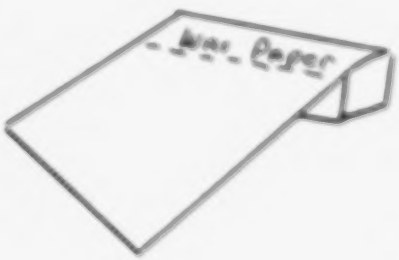
PROCEDURE:

Tear two 24" pieces of paper from a wax paper roll. Cut or tear paper shapes out of colored paper or tissue and arrange them on one piece of the waxed paper. Ask the students to cut the tissue into the various shapes they see in their jar aquariums. Place different colored tissue on top of the first colors. Crayon shavings and colored thread can be added. Carefully lay the second piece of waxed paper over the first and cover both pieces with a sheet of plain paper. Press on this with a warm iron; the heat will cause the pieces of waxed paper to become melted together. These "see through" pictures can be pasted onto white paper or taped to a window. Also waxed paper mats can be made for Christmas gifts.

Hints:

For students through the third grade, the teacher may want to handle the iron. Put the picture between the paper to make sure that the waxed paper does not get on the iron.

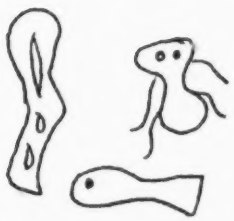
1.



Tear two 24" pieces of wax paper from the roll.

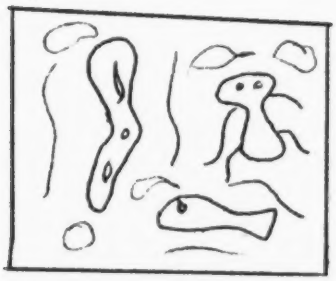
FISHLESS AQUARIUM WITH WAX PAPER (cont.)

2.



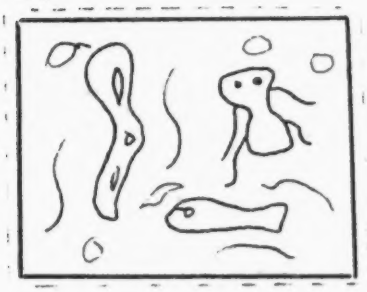
Tear or cut figures from construction paper.

3.



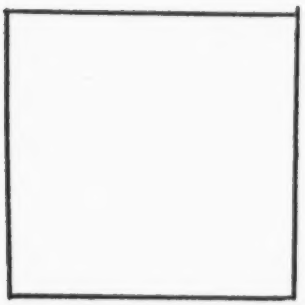
Arrange figures on one piece of wax paper. Colored thread and crayon shavings may be added.

4.



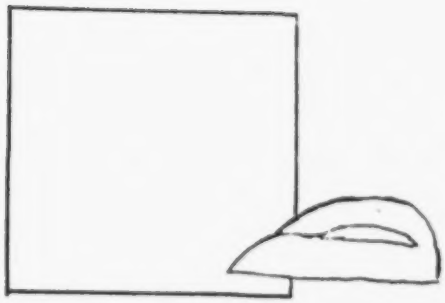
Lay the second piece of wax paper on top of the first.

5.



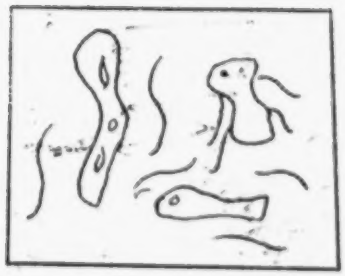
Cover both pieces of wax paper with a plain sheet of paper.

6.



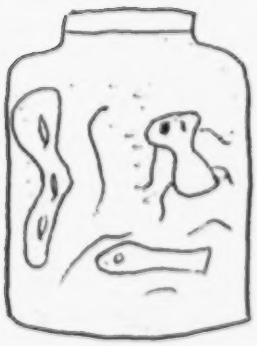
Press with a warm iron.

7.



The wax paper will melt together. The crayon shaving will melt to create a colorful aquarium.

8.



Trim the pictures to a shape, such as a jar, fishbowl, etc.

"AKING AN ANTORIUM"

Grade level-K-6

PURPOSE:

This is a simple way for pupils to have an ant farm for studying at home or school.

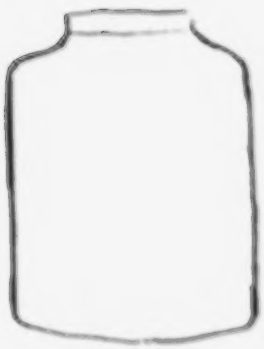
"ATERIALS:

jar
spoon
wad of cotton or sponge
crumbs of food

PROCEDURE:

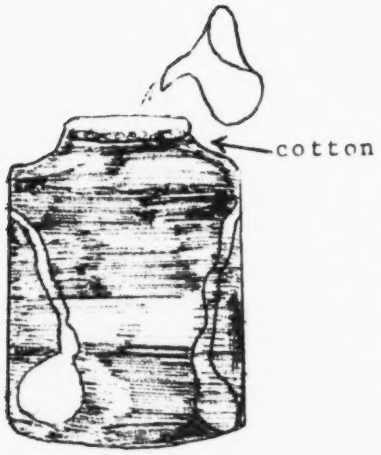
Use a gallon jar with a narrow neck. Find an active ant hill, preferably red ants and dig to the center of it with a spoon. Carefully lift the gravel and dirt and place them in the jar. Try to find a winged ant--this will probably be the queen. Place a sponge or a wad of cotton on top of the dirt and pour a little water on it every few days. Place crumbs of bread, cake or cookies in the jar for the ants to eat. They also eat small insects and sugar.
September is a good month to make an antorium because there is much ant activity then. They are laying eggs, storing food, doing cleaning, etc.
Usually the ants will not go out of the narrow neck of the jar but if the bottle neck has straight sides, set it in a shallow pan of water. This will keep them inside of the jar.

1.



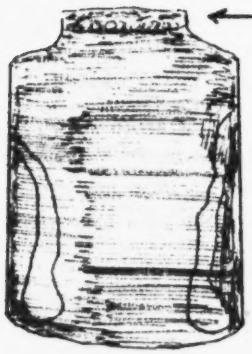
In a gallon jar, place gravel and dirt and insects from the center of an ant hill.

2.



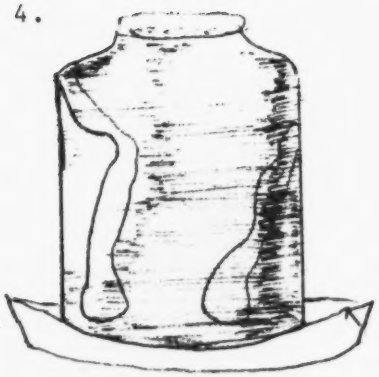
Place a sponge or wad of cotton on top of the dirt, add water every few days.

3.



Put cake and crumbs on top, for the ants to eat.

4.



Usually the ants will not go out of the narrow neck but if the bottle neck has straight sides, set the bottle in a shallow pan of water.

MOSAIC PICTURES OF BUG HOMES

Grade-level-3-6

PURPOSE:

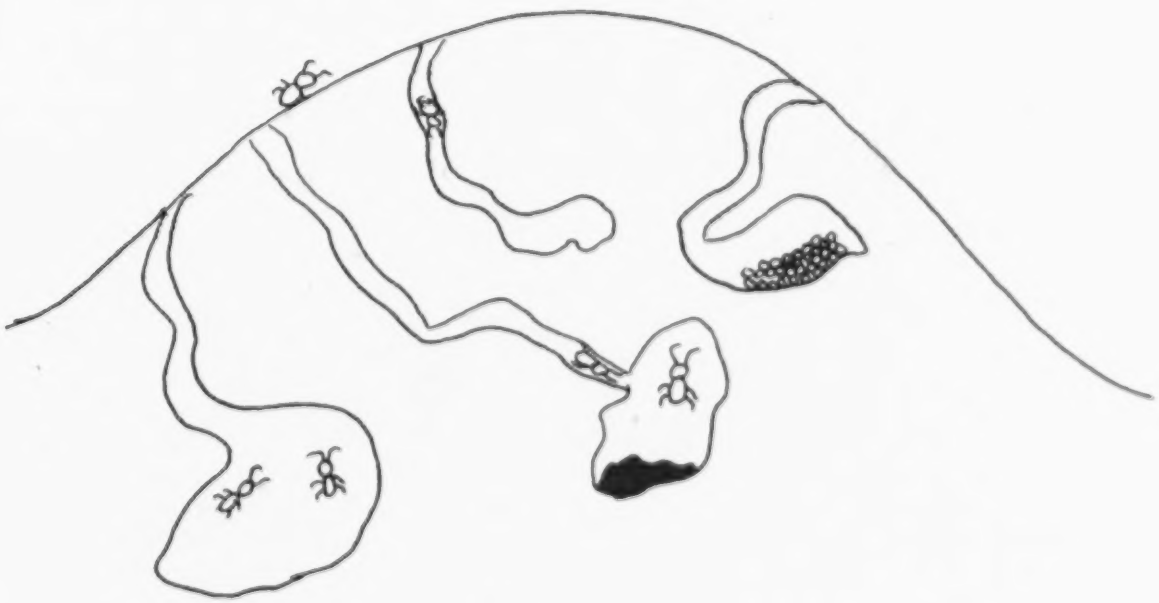
To make students aware of bug homes and bug activity.

MATERIALS:

construction paper
scissors

PROCEDURE:

After students have studied what bug homes look like, have them make an interior view of their home. Have them use a different colored paper for every part of the home. For example, an ant hill; on the top of a piece of construction paper put the shape of the ant hill, with another color showing ant trails, ants eggs, larve, and queen ants, etc.



INSECT CAGES
(Use with Trapping Insects and Kinds Of Bugs)

Grade level-2-6

PURPOSE:

This project gives students a chance to make their own insect collection at school and at home.

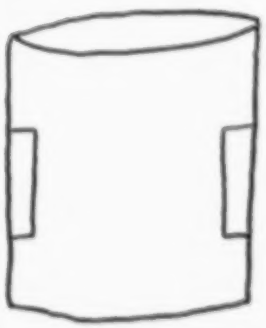
MATERIALS:

an oatmeal or salt box
fine screen wire (enough to make a cylinder inside of the box)
six paper fastners
knife or scissors

PROCEDURE:

Each student selects a box, a piece of wire, and six brass fastners. Cut oblong windows in two sides of the box so that the insects can be watched. Make a cylinder out of the wire and fit it inside the box. Be sure to overlap the wire enough to fasten it. Punch the points of the six brass fastners through the box and wire and then pull the prongs back tightly. Put the lid on the box.
Variation:
Use a pint glass fruit jar. Remove the center of the lid and replace with a piece of screen wire cut to fit.
Small cages of this sort may be put inside such a cage to avoid handling.

1.



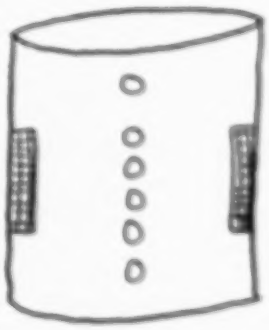
Cut oblong windows in two sides of the box.

INSECT CAGES (cont.)

2.

Make a cylinder out of wire, overlap the edges, enough to fasten it.

3.



Put the cylinder inside of the box.

Punch the points of the fasteners through the box and wire.

INSECT DRAWINGS

(Trapping Insects)

Grade level -1-8

PURPOSE:

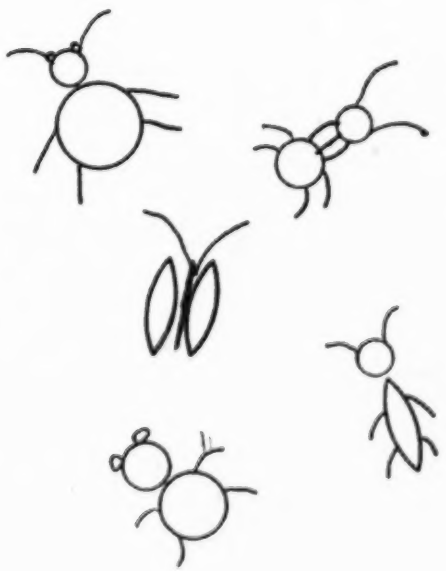
This develops the drawing and sketching techniques.

MATERIALS:

pencil, color,etc.
paper

PROCEDURE:

After collecting bugs, have the students discover how easy it is to draw them. As a pre-activity, the pupils must know how to make circles and be able to make them into an oval shape.
Study the insects, the outside structure of the bug first. Bugs can be made completely with circles, ovals and lines.



MAKE A TV SET
(Use with Trapping Insects and Kinds of Bugs
and/or Bugs and Bug Homes)

Grade-level-1-4

PURPOSE:

To make each student aware of an insect's life cycle.

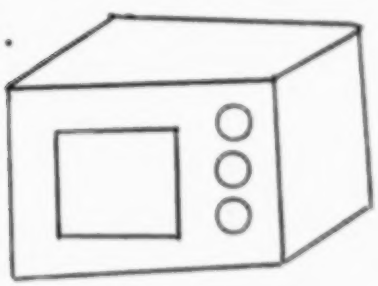
MATERIALS:

shoe box
two dowels or new pencils
construction paper

PROCEDURE:

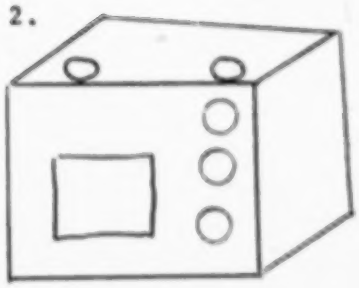
Cut an oblong window in the box and decorate, to resemble the front of a television set. Cut two holes on the top and bottom of the box so the paper can pass in front of the screen. Tape the paper together for the TV film having each student draw pictures for an insect starting at the larve stage to the adult insect. Tape the film to the pencils, rolling it on one of the pencils. Put the paper in the box so that the show can be viewed from the front of the television set.

1.



Cut a window in the front of a box. Decorate, to look like a television.

2.



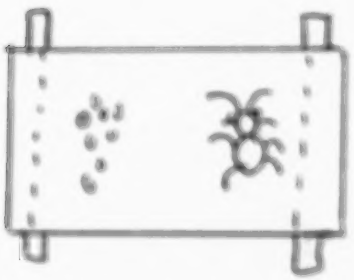
Cut two holes on the top and the bottom of the box for the dowels.

MAKE A T.V. SET (cont.)

1.

Make the film.

2.

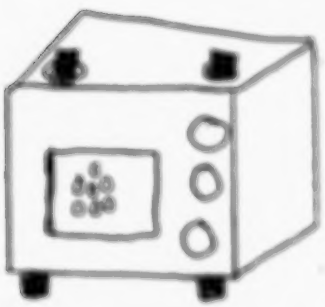


Tape

Roll

Tape the film to one of the dowels. Roll the other dowel at the end of the film.

3.



Place the film in the T.V.
Roll the dowels.

STUFFED INSECTS
(Use with Estimating Insect Population Per Acre)

Grade-level-K-6

PURPOSE:

This is a simple method of making students aware of insects, shapes, and colorings.

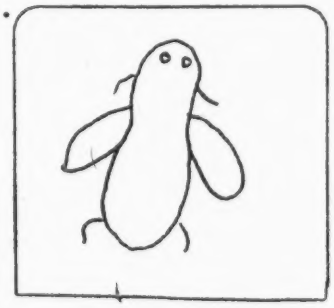
MATERIALS:

paper sack
stapler
newspaper
colors and/or tempera paint
scissors

PROCEDURE:

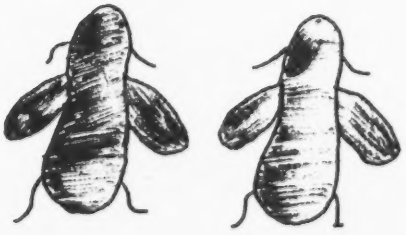
Have each student select an insect they would like to make. Cut the outline of the insect out of the paper making two copies. One copy is one side of the insect and the second copy is the reverse side. Paint or color the insect putting in eyes and other designs. Stuff newspaper between the two sides of the bug and staple around the outside edge of the paper. Do not put too much stuffing in the insect's legs or feelers, because they may rip when they are stapled.
It may be easier for some of the students to staple the insects in parts.

1.



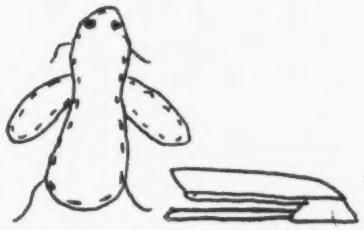
Make two copies of the insect.

2.



Color or paint the insect.

3.



Stuff the insect with Newspaper.
Staple the edge.

THREE-DIMENSIONS
(Use with Trapping Insects and Kinds of Bugs)

Grade-level-3-5

PURPOSE:

A method to bring life in art classes and to study insects.

MATERIALS:

construction paper
scissors
paste
sharp pointed objects

PROCEDURE:

Have the pupils imagine what an insect would look like if he were cut in half and the cut portion placed against paper. What part of the bug would be extended from the paper? There would be a bump for the body and extending from the body would be the eyes, feelers and legs. Now see if the students can make this same picture only using paper. A third dimension paper picture is created by bending, folding, rolling, fringing, etc. Paper can be folded easily if it is scored. Scoring is using a sharp pointed object and cutting half way through the paper. Not all the way through to the hole. Bugs and animals in the fishless aquarium can be illustrated with insect legs, plants, wings, etc. extending from the paper.

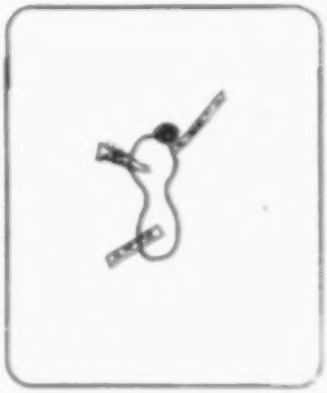
1.

Imagine what an insect would look like, if cut in half, and placed against paper.

2.

Roll, fold, fringe, and bend paper to shape the bug.

3.



Glue this to a piece of paper.

MAKING INSECTS OUT OF PAPIER-MACHE'
(Use with Trapping Insects and Kinds of Bugs)

Grade-level-3-6

PURPOSE:

This activity makes the students more aware of insects, shapes, coloring and structure.

MATERIALS:

newspaper
wallpaper paste
a mixing container
Individual insects can be decorated with
a. paper
b. paint
c. shellac
d. other decorative materials

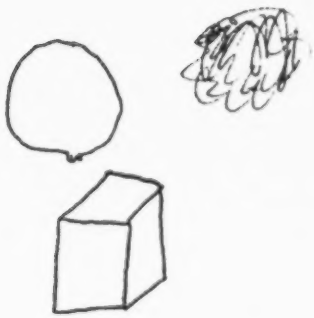
PROCEDURE:

Papier-mache' can be quickly made by mixing wallpaper paste and water together. Add the wallpaper paste slowly to the water and stir the lumps out. The students can do this with their hands. Newspaper can be cut and used for the paper. Cut strips of newspaper 2" wide.
Each student must decide which insect he wishes to make and if possible capture it for his model. Use crumpled paper to start the body, a balloon or a box may also be used. Use "torn paper and paste" papier-mache' around the crumpled paper and mold this into an insect's body. Let dry a day or two.
If wings are to added to the insect, make holes on the papier-mache' where the wings are to be. The holes must be the size of the wire. Push the wire in the holes and bend the wires. Extra paper can be trimmed away with scissors.
Paint the papier-mache' with a water-based color, tempera paint is good. To protect the paint, pour liquid wax over the brush and apply that over the paint or use shellac, which will make the paint look shiny and bright.
Complete the insect with pipe cleaners for the legs and feelers. The insect can be hung from the ceiling.

1. Mix wallpaper paste.
2. Cut strips of newspaper 2" wide.
3. Decide which insect to make.

MAKING INSECTS OUT OF PAPIER-MACHE' (cont.)

4.



Use crumpled paper, a balloon or a box to start the body.

5.

Dip strips of paper into the paste.

6.

Wrap "torn paper and paste" around the body.

7.

Mold to the desired shape.
Let dry 2-3 days.

8.

Add wings if desired, using fine wire. Shape them, push them into the papier-mache'.

MAKING INSECTS OUT OF PAPIER-MACHE' (cont.)

9.

Cover the wings with tissue paper.

10.

Paint the insect to the desired colors.

11.

Complete the insect with pipe cleaners for the legs and feelers.

STONE PAINTING

Grade level -1-8

PURPOSE:

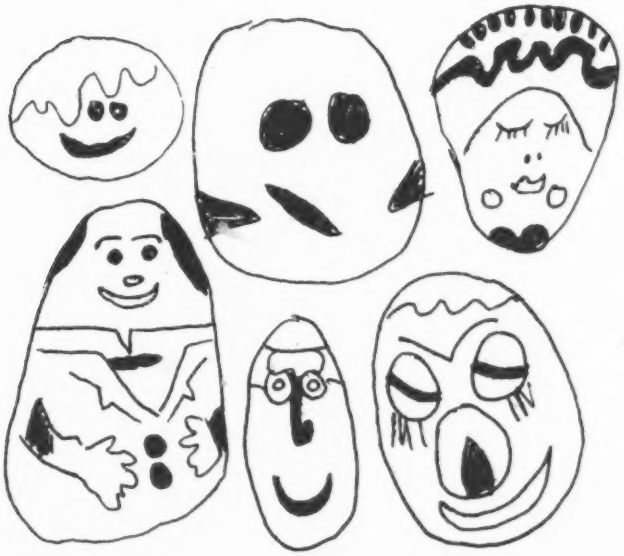
This project may stimulate interest in rock hunting.

MATERIALS:

stones
tempera paint and brush

PROCEDURE:

Have the students look for rocks while they are on a field trip. Tempera paint will give them facial features. Some rocks can be glued on another to give bodies. Remember to check before painting to see if the rock will not tip over when on a level area.



PINECONE PALS

Grade-level-1-8

PURPOSE:

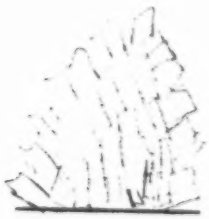
To use pinecones creatively.

MATERIALS:

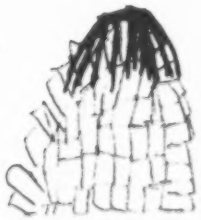
pinecones
yarn
scraps of felt
small jar lids and bottle caps
ribbons

PROCEDURE:

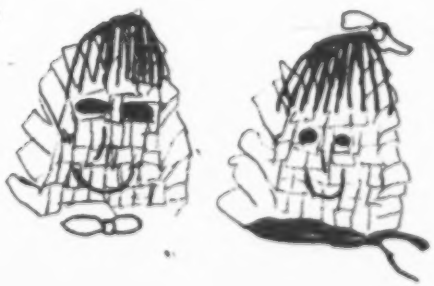
Use a large pinecone to make people. Glue the large end of the pinecone to a piece of cardboard. Glue yarn over the top end of the cone for hair. Cut small felt pieces for a nose, mouth, and eyes glue them in place. Glue on other decorations, such as ribbons, flowers and tinsel.

1. 

Glue a pinecone to a piece of cardboard.

2. 

Glue yarn over the top for hair.

3. 

Cut small felt pieces for a nose, mouth, and eyes.
Add other decorations.

PINECONE TURKEY

Grade level -1-4

PURPOSE:

This project shows a way to use nature for a decoration.

MATERIALS:

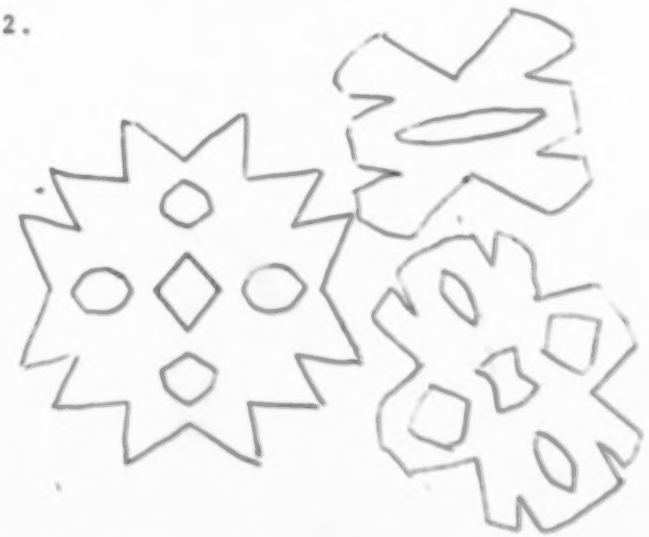
Cut several colors of construction paper into snowflakes to make the tail feathers.
The snowflakes are made by taking a round piece of paper. A nice size tail can be made from construction paper measuring 6", 4½", and 3½" in diameter. The paper is in 3 or more sizes to add color to the "tail feathers". These sizes are for an average sized pinecone; pinecones the students find may need smaller or larger feathers.
To make the snowflakes, fold the round pieces of paper in half, then in half again and then in half again.

Tell the students to put their thumb at the pointed end of the triangle and cut into the sides and the top of the triangle. Put the snowflakes together into a fan shape, and place on the back of the pinecone.

1.

Fold the circle as shown above.
Cut little designs in the folded circle.

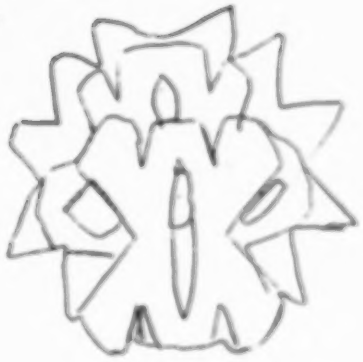
2.



Cut three snowflakes of different colored construction paper.

PINECONE TURKEY (cont.)

3.



Arrange the three snowflakes from large to small. Use these for the tail feathers.

4.

Add construction paper head and feet to a pinecone.

5.

Fasten the tail feathers on the back of the pinecone.

CAMOUFLAGE COLLAGE

Grade-level-1-6

PURPOSE:

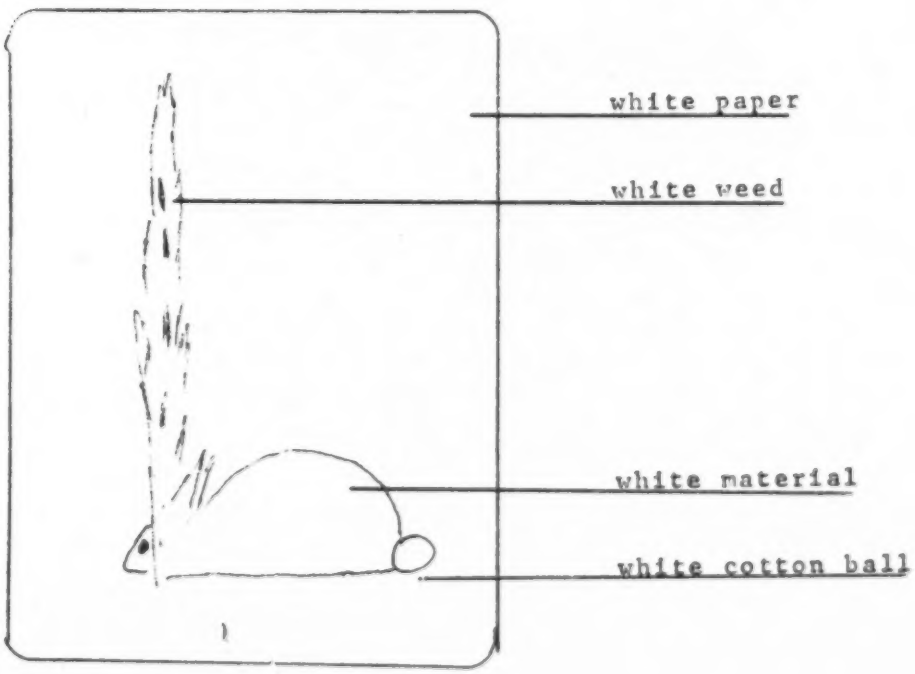
To demonstrate how animals camouflage themselves in the snow.

MATERIALS:

white paper
white fabrics and junk materials
glue

PROCEDURE:

When the lesson on how animals camouflage themselves in the snow is discussed, use this art project. Give each student a white piece of paper and tell them to pretend it is snow. They must use white paper, fabric, and/or white junk materials to create an animal and his surroundings. Let the many animals whose protective colorings keep them safe against a snowy background, inspire a realistic scene.



BEE HIVE FUN

Grade-level-3-8

PURPOSE:

This activity makes pupils aware of the repetition in nature.

MATERIALS:

construction paper
scissors
glue

PROCEDURE:

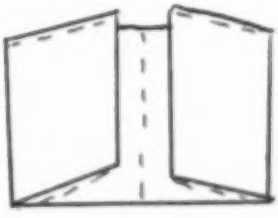
Cut a strip of paper about one inch by four inches, fold the paper in half leaving about one-half inch on one side above the other. Then fold the paper in thirds still keeping the one-half inch margin. Unfold the strip of paper and glue the one-half margin to the opposite end, Work the paper until it is a six sided figure. This is to give the appearance of a bee cell. Make other cells and paste them together. Variations can be done with different colored strips of paper. The strip of paper does not have to be one by four, but the size must be the same all through the bee hive.

Use this activity with <u>Bug and Bug Homes</u>.

1.

Fold the paper in half, leaving half an inch for gluing.

2.

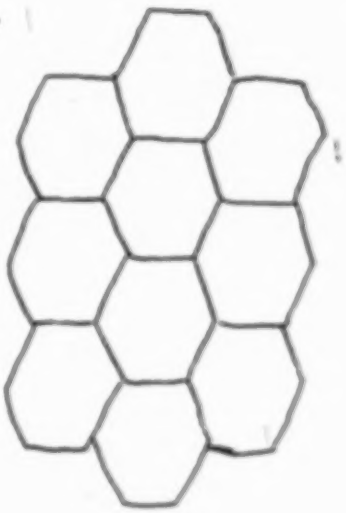


Fold the paper in thirds.

3.

Unfold the paper and glue the ends together.

4.



Make many of these. Glue them together.

COCKLEBUR DECORATIONS

Grade-level-1-8

PURPOSE:

To show an interesting and decorative use for cockleburs.

MATERIALS:

Cockleburs
spray paint
yarn
clear plastic paper

PROCEDURE:

After the pupils come in from their field trip they may have burs on their clothing, save these for decorations. Put six to eight burs together to make a star or any little animal, and spray these with paint. The students may put yarn on the back to make a loop so the decorations may be hung on the Christmas tree. To prevent the burs from sticking together put clear plastic around them and dip them into boiling water. Then, again the yarn loop may be glued on the clear plastic paper.

Make animals or decorations from Cockleburs. Spray paint them.

COTTON BALL BIRDS

Grade-level-2-5

PURPOSE:

To make students aware of birds and bird colorings.

MATERIALS:

cotton balls
tempera paint
construction paper
branch

PROCEDURE:

Have the students think of the different birds they know or have seen on their field trips. Discuss some of the different colors of the birds. After the students have decided what birds they would like to make, give each child a cotton ball. Mix the paint to the desired color of each child. Paint the cotton ball the color of the bird's body. This can be done with a paint brush. Remember that cotton balls absorb paint and there will probably be some white showing. Let dry. Out of construction paper cut a bird's head, wings and tail. These will have to be small because the cotton ball is small. Glue the head, tail and wings to the cotton ball body. Place the birds on a tree limb for display. This is a good unit to introduce mixing colors. By putting more than one color together it will make a new color.

1.

Discuss birds.

2.

Paint the cotton balls to look like the bird. This can be done with a paint brush.

3.

Cut out of construction paper a head, wings, and a tail.

4.

Glue the head, wings and tail to the cotton ball.

5.

Place the birds on a tree limb for display.

HYGROMETER

Grade-level-2-3

PURPOSE:

To help students understand what a hygrometer is and what it is used for.

MATERIALS:

heavy tagboard
tape
colbalt chloride

PROCEDURE:

Discuss what a hygrometer is and what it is used for. Have the students decide what kind of animal or design they would like to use as their hygrometer.
Draw the animal or design on the tagboard. Cut the design out. Cut the eyes or some design out. Tape a piece of colbalt chloride on the back of the eyes or design. This will show through to the front. The eyes or whatever will act as the hygrometer. When the colbalt chloride changes colors it means a change in the weather.

1. After discussing what a hygrometer is decide what shape you want to make the hygrometer.

2.

Draw the design on tagboard.
Cut the design out.

HYGROMETER (cont.)

3.

Cut eyes in the design.

4.

Tape cobalt chloride on the back of the eyes.

5.

This is your hygrometer

SOAP CARVING

Grade-level-3-8

PURPOSE:

To learn about animal forms.

MATERIALS:

soap
knife or scissors
box or paper

PROCEDURE:

After studying animals, for an art follow up try carving soap. Students must first learn how to handle their tool. The cutting tool does not have to be sharp, a school scissors are fine. If the student is using a knife have him hold it in the palm of his hand and bring his finger around the handle. Scissors should be held open with their hand around one of the blades and one of the handles.
Before carving have the students visualize what size and shape the animal should be. Remember that appendages and tails are hard to work with. The legs should be put together when possible, like the front legs and the back legs. The tail should be carved next to the body.
Carve over a box or piece of paper. This will prevent a big clean-up job.
If they want to paint the animals terpera paint works the best.

1.

Hold the knife like this.

Hold the scissors like this.

2.

Visualize what size and shape the animal should be.

3.

Begin to carve.

4.

Carve the tail and legs close to the body.
Tempera paint can be used to paint over the soap, if desired.

INDIAN ARROWHEAD

Grade-level-3-8

PURPOSE:

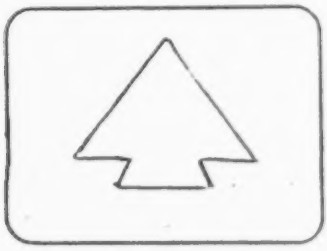
To help students be creative in making designs.

MATERIALS:

tagboard
sand
glue
eggshells

PROCEDURE:

After studying Indians, try this art project as a follow up. Cut an arrowhead shape, from a piece of tagboard. With colored eggshells and sand make a design and glue this to the tagboard.

1. 

Cut an arrowhead shape from a piece of tagboard.

2.

With colored eggshells and sand make a design and glue this to the tagboard.

SHADOWS OF OBJECTS

Grade level-2-5

PURPOSE:

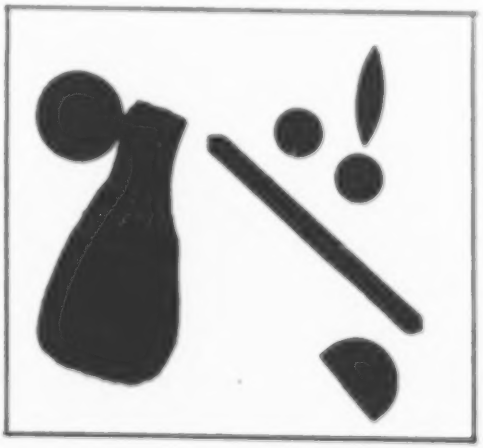
To study shadows

MATERIALS:

construction paper
pencil

PROCEDURE:

During the study of shadows have each student draw shadows of objects. Then mount them on a piece of paper for a collage.



COLLAGE

Grade-level-K-8

PURPOSE:

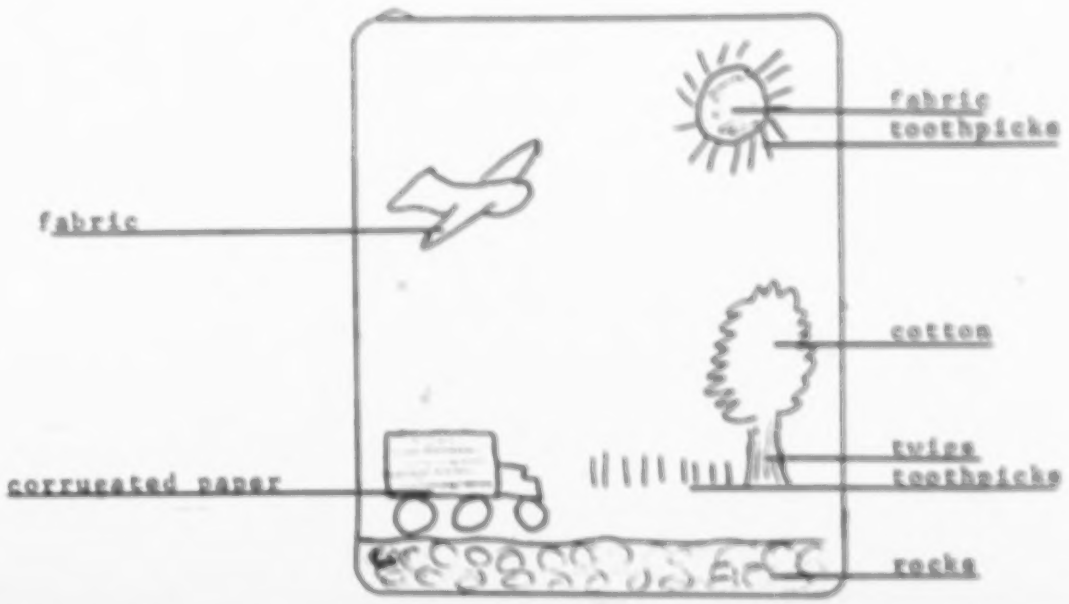
Collages help to develop a students sense of balance and color.

MATERIALS:

paper
paste
scissors
scraps of all sorts of dry cereal, corrugated cardboard, feathers, beads, patterned fabric, aluminum foil, cotton batting, toothpicks, lace, etc. Items gathered on field trips should also be used.

PROCEDURE:

Abstract prints or realistic scenes may be created by cutting scraps and pasting them in place, or in a desired pattern. For example, an airplane may be cut from a patterned green fabric, while the truck is made from a piece of corrugated cardboard.
Birds can be formed from real feathers. Cornflakes could be pasted in place to show an area of plowed fields.
Children should be encouraged to be as imaginative as possible to become aquainted with the various textures, yet not to engrossed in the novelty of the materials. They should consider the artistic value of the finished products.
Students can also go through magazines to find pictures of pollution and/or what makes pollution and make a picture collage.



EXPERIENCE CHART

Grade-level-K-5

PURPOSE:

To develop story writing and drawings

MATERIALS:

tagboard
crayons
pencil
hanger
clothespins

PROCEDURE:

After the students have gone on their field trips have them write a story on an experience they had or something they saw.
Transfer this paragraph to a large piece of tagboard. Leave enough space at the top of the story for a picture. The picture may be drawn on the tagboard or on a sheet of construction paper and glued on to the tagboard.
If the classroom is limited in bulletin board space take a clothespin and hanger and attach the picture to the hanger with the clothespins. This can be placed on a nail on the classroom wall.
These experience charts can be used as reading fun for the students in their spare time. Experience charts also help the reluctant reader because they are stories his classmates and he wrote.

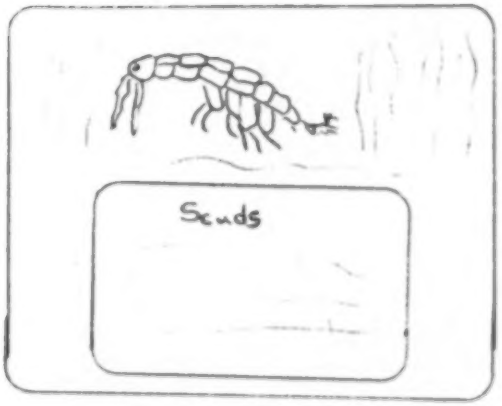
1.

Have students write a story.

2.

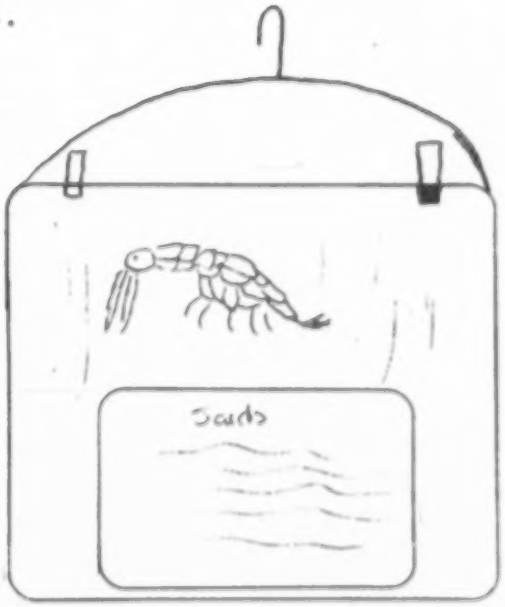
Teachers transfer the story to a large piece of tagboard.

3.



Have students draw a picture to go along with the story.

4.



If the classroom is limited in bulletin board space take clothespins and a hanger, attach the picture to the hanger.

PLASTER OF PARIS PRINTS

Grade-level-3-8

PURPOSE:

To preserve animal tracks for study.

MATERIALS:

water
plaster of paris

PROCEDURE:

When studying animals and animal tracks in the classroom, it may be interesting to the class to preserve their own animal tracks.
After an animal track is found mix the plaster of paris by the directions below. Mix the plaster of paris in the field near the track because the plaster hardens quickly.
Brush away any large rocks that may be near the track. The plaster may be poured directly over the track or a tin can with both ends open may be put around the track to hold the plaster. Let the plaster dry, remove from the ground and brush off the excess soil.

Mix Plaster Of Paris:
Pour enough water into a bowl so that the water equals the area of the print. Sprinkle plaster of paris on top of the water, increase the amount as it absorbs the water. For uniform consistency, submerge the hand into the plaster of paris mixture and press out any lumps. When the plaster begins to set, lift the bowl and tap it sharply on the bottom, this gets rid of the air pockets.

1.

Mix Plaster of Paris near the track.

2.

Pour plaster of paris over the track.

or

A tin can can be put around the track. Then pour the plaster over the track. Let dry.

3.

Remove from the ground.

PEEP SHOWS

Grade-level-2-8

PURPOSE:

To produce a worthwhile project in the study of insects and to be used as information learned.

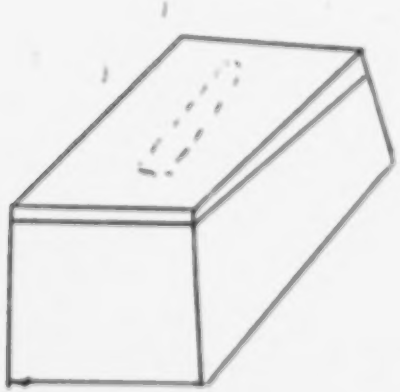
MATERIALS:

shoe box with lid for each child
art paper
cardboard scraps for projects inside of the box
scraps of cloth
grass
twigs

PROCEDURE:

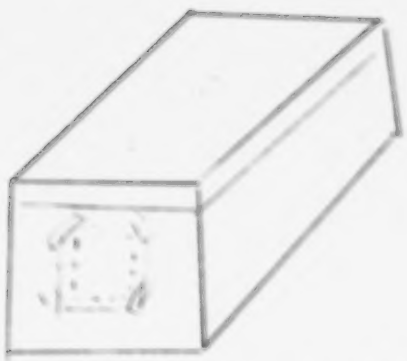
Make a peep show to show how different insects live and what they do. Have the students collect items like grass, twigs, cloth, etc. These items will be arranged in a shoe box to make an interesting scene when a person looks in a small hole at one end of the box. First cut a long slit in the lid of the box so that the light will come in and allow the whole show to be seen. Cut a square in the back of the box and cover it with tissue paper to let the light come in from the back. Cut a round hole in the front of the box big enough to see all of the peep show when the box is held close to the eye. When cutting is finished, make a background in the back of the box. Arrange the collected items at different depths in the shoe box, checking frequently through the peep hole to see if it looks right. Place all big objects towards the back of the box. Be sure to put a cardboard brace on the back of each object so that it will stand up. When finished the back of the box should appear to be far away. Students might like to exchange peep shows.

1.



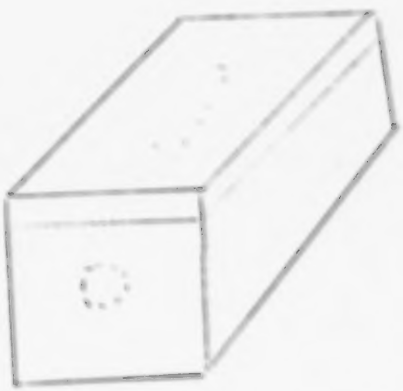
Cut a long slit in the lid of the box.

2.



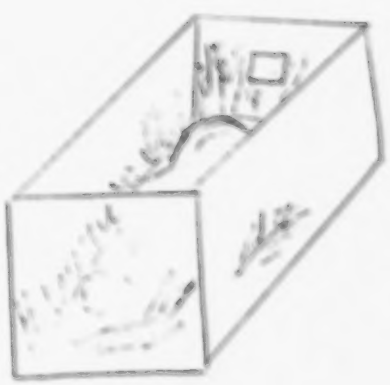
Cut a square in the back of the box. Cover it with tissue paper.

3.



Cut a round hole in the front of the box.

4.



Arrange the collected items in the box for your peep show.

POTATO PEOPLE

Grade-level-K-3

PURPOSE:

To study seeds and the growing process in an enjoyable way.

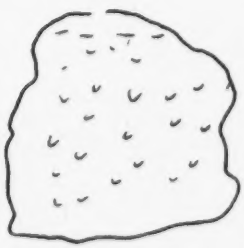
MATERIALS:

potato
knife
spoon
dirt
seeds (grass and flower)
construction paper

PROCEDURE:

For this project every student will need a potato. Decide which side of the potato would make the best face. Cut off the top of the potato and carve about 2½ inches down in the potato. This will form the planter. Be careful not to make the sides too thin. (For younger students the teacher might want to help with cutting.) Put some rich soil in the planter. Grass or flower seeds may be planted. The grass seeds will blossom and look like a hat with flowers. (Girls would enjoy this.)
Make construction paper eyes, mouth, nose, ribbons, ties, etc. The potato will sit up if a pop bottle lid is put on the bottom of the potato. You can also make a construction paper stand. Construction paper stands are made by taking ½" by 3" pieces of paper and gluing the ends together.

1.

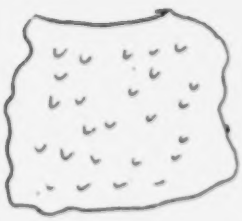


Cut off the top of the potato.

2.

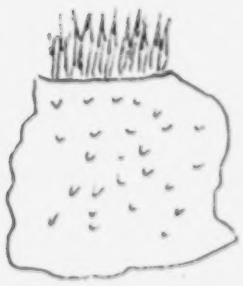
Carve about 2½ inches down in the potato.

3.



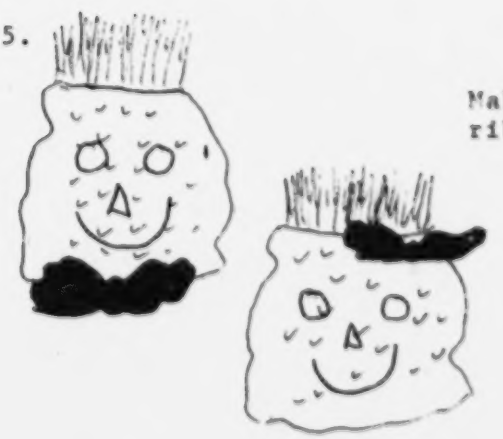
Put soil in the potato.

4.



The seeds will grow and look like hair.

5.



Make construction paper eyes, mouth, nose, ribbon, etc.

PAPER PEOPLE

Grade-level-K-3

PURPOSE:

To make students aware of themselves.

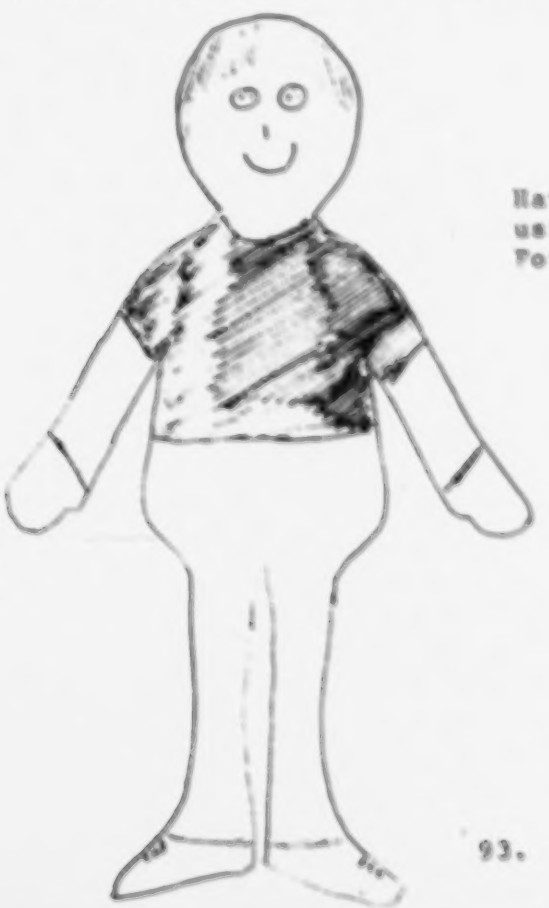
MATERIALS:

butcher paper
pencil
tempera paint
colors

PROCEDURE:

Stretch the butcher paper on the floor and have a student lie down on it. Trace the student's form on the paper.
Then the student can decorate his form by using tempera paint, colors and anything else he wishes to use.

1. Stretch the butcher paper on the floor and have a student lie down on it.
   Trace the student's form on the paper.

2. 

Have each child decorate himself using anything he wishes.
For example,

buttons
yarn
material
paint
construction paper
string
lace

NATURE'S COLORS
(Use with Colors in Nature)

Grade-level-K-4

PURPOSE:

To promote interest in and observation of colors in nature.

MATERIALS:

crayons
12" by 18" paper

PROCEDURE:

Divide the paper into six sections with the colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet at the top of the individual sections.
Have a contest to see who can name the most plants, animals, or litter corresponding to the color section of the paper.
Younger children may draw the objects instead of making a list.

For example:

red	Orange	yellow	green	blue	Violet
rose hips flowers rocks	Butterfly	Sunflower Bumble Bee	leaves grass	Paper flowers Water	clover thistle

red	orange	yellow	green	blue	Violet

WAXED PAPER ETCHING

Grade-level-3-6

PURPOSE:

This project provides a different way to draw winter scenes.

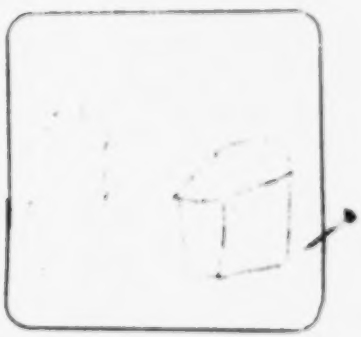
MATERIALS:

waxed paper
something to etch with like a toothpick, pen, pin, etc.

PROCEDURE:

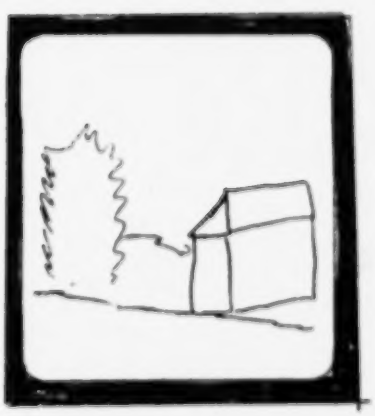
Young children are always anxious to try something different. In a scratching out picture use the most inexpensive waxed paper and draw on it with any sharp object which will not tear the paper. Etching will show up the best when mounted on black paper.

1.



Scratch pictures on waxed paper.

2.



Etching will show up the best if mounted on black paper.

CARDBOARD CHRISTMAS TREE

Grade-level-4-8

PURPOSE:

To make a decorative tree using plants as ornaments.

MATERIALS:

glue
plants, seeds, milkweed seeds
gold or silver paint (spray)

PROCEUDRE:

Cut a piece of tagboard into a triangle with a round base. A nice size tree measures about 14 inches from the point of the tree to the base. Scotch tape the two sides of the triangle together, so it looks like an upside down ice cream cone. Glue on the cardboard large seeds, a pinecone that is broken up or the seeds from a milkweed. Spray all of it with gold or silver spray paint.

1.

Cut a piece of tagboard into a triangle with a round base.

2.

Tape the two sides of the triangle together.

3.

Glue seeds, pinecones, etc. to the tree. After the glue is dry, spray paint the tree.

FROST DRAWINGS

Grade level-1-8

PURPOSE:

To study the frost designs.

MATERIALS:

dark paper
pencil, crayon or chalk

PROCEDURE:

When there is frost on the windows it can be fun to reproduce an area by having several children draw what they see in one square inch of the frosted window.
Cut a square inch out of the center of a large piece of dark paper. Prop this paper against the window or tape it from the frame exposing a pattern in the one inch cut away area.
Have one child reproduce this in pencil, crayon, or chalk. Move the paper to expose another inch for another child to draw. The whole window can be done this way and displayed together or in sections.
If chalk is used, to prevent it from coming off the paper, spray it with hair spray.

1.

Mark off an inch in a frosted window.

2.

Have students each reproduce an inch of the window.

SPRAY-A-PICTURE

Grade-level-1-8

PURPOSE:

This project provides a different way to draw winter scenes.

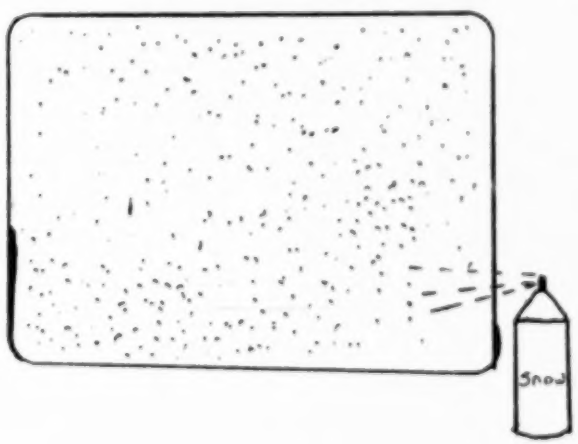
MATERIALS:

can of spray snow
dark construction paper
paint brush

PROCEDURE:

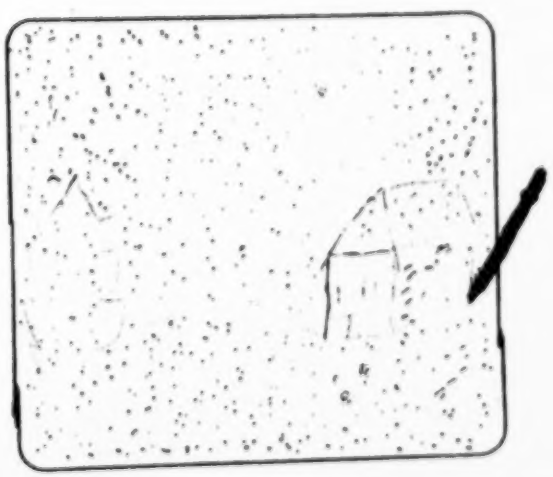
Use a can of spray snow to create winter pictures. Spray snow on black or dark-colored construction paper and use the pointed handle of a paint brush to scratch their design. Simple subjects work the best. Mistakes can be sprayed away. Avoid too thick of a coat since it is more difficult to work with.

1.



Spray snow on dark colored paper.

2.



With the pointed handle of a paint brush, scratch a picture.

ADD SNOW TO A PICTURE

Grade-level-K-3

MATERIALS:

picture done in tempera paint or water color.

PROCEDURE:

Have the students paint something they see outside using tempera or watercolor paints. This picture may be a tree, house or a country scene. Let the painting dry.
Take snow and sprinkle it on the picture. Then let it run like rain off the picture. Let the students discuss if this reminds them of anything or any situation they have been in like, looking out a window as it is raining.

1.

Paint a picture in tempera or water color paint.

2.

Sprinkle snow over the picture.
Let the snow melt and run off the picture.

FOOD COLORING PICTURE (experiment)

Grade-level-K-4

PURPOSE:

To study the mixing of colors.

MATERIALS:

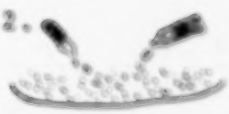
food coloring
paper plate
snow

PROCEDURE:

For a colorful snow experiment have each student get a couple handeful of snow and put it on a paper plate. (The paper plate should have sides because the snow will melt away, chinette paper plates are very good.)
Put one or two drops of food coloring on the snow. WATCH the beautiful colors twinkle as the snow melts. Two or more colors can be added so that students can see that by mixing colors together you make new colors.
Have them look at the colored snow under a microscope.

1.

Have each student get a plate of snow.

2. 

Add a few drops of food coloring.

3.

Watch the snow melt, and the colors mix.

SNOWFLAKE MOBILES FROM KITE STICKS

Grade-level-5-8

PURPOSE:

To better visualize the differences in snowflakes.

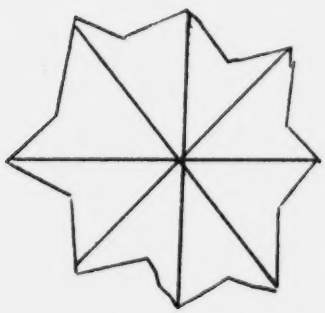
MATERIALS:

kite sticks
saw
poster paint
glue or nails with hammer
yarn or twine string

PROCEDURE:

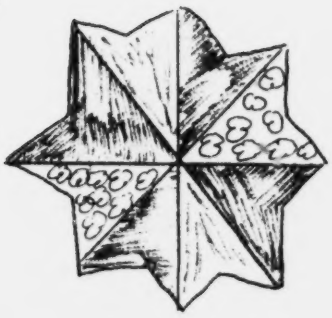
Use kite sticks as a basis for impressively large, but delicate looking snowflake mobiles.
The young artists can make any cross arrangement of the flat wooden sticks before deciding which one pleases them the most. Some slats are sawed to different lengths, some have color applied to them with poster paint. Then, they are glued or nailed together with small brads.
This is the attractive framework, now it needs decoration. Colored paper, felt, tongue depressors, clothespins may be glued, stapled, or nailed to the mobiles. There must be two of everything because both sides of the mobile will show. Sometimes yarn is woven around sticks at the junction with other sticks with decorations.
This airy masterpiece can be hung from light fixtures throughout the room, transforming it into a truly magic winter wonderland.

1.



Arrange kite sticks to look like a snowflake.
Then glue or nail together the sticks.

2.



Decorate the framework. Use colored paper, felt, tongue depressors, clothespins, etc.

FROSTED GLASS

Grade-level-4-8

PURPOSE:

To give students an opportunity to watch a chemical reaction and make something decorative.

MATERIALS:

epsom salt
boiling water

PROCEDURE:

A simple way to decorate a glass or vase for a holiday or other occasions.
Add epsom salts to a saucepan holding two cupsful of boiling water, until no more of the salts will dissolve-in. Add a few drops of liquid glue to help make the "frost" adhere to the glass.
Then brush the mixture to the outside of the glass or vase in whatever design you like, holly, initials, and the like. The liquid will begin to evaporate almost at once, and the crystals of the salts will look just like frosting, but it can be washed off.

1. Add epsom salts to water.
   Add a few drops of glue to the salt mixture.

2.

Brush on the design with the solution.

PRESERVING THE SNOW CRYSTAL-SHAPES

Grade-level-3-8

PURPOSE:

This project gives students an opportunity to study snowflakes for a longer period of time.

MATERIALS:

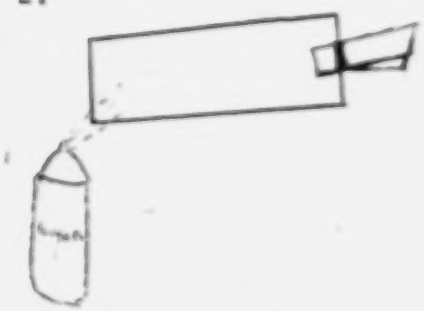
Glass slides or pieces of glass
clear plastic or lacquer
cardboard
magnifiers

PROCEDURE:

Store slides and lacquer in the freezing compartment of the refrigerator. When it is snowing, quickly take the slides from the freezer outside so they will not warm up. Hold each slide on a small piece of cardboard, wood or use a clothespin so the heat from your hand does not make the slide warm up. Spray a thin coat of clear lacquer on the slide. Hold the slide out in the snow until several snowflakes have fallen on it. Allow the slide to remain outside in the cold, but protected from the snow for an hour. You can now bring them in and examine with a microscope or hand lens.

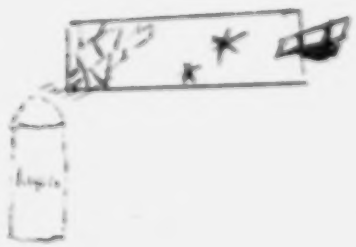
1. Store slides and lacquer in the refrigerator.

2.



Hold the slide with a clothespin.
Spray with lacquer.

3.



Take the slide outside when its snowing, catch a few crystals. Spray with lacquer. Keep cool for about an hour.

PSYCHEDELIC SNOWFLAKES

Grade-level-1-4

PURPOSE:

To better visualize the differences in snowflakes.

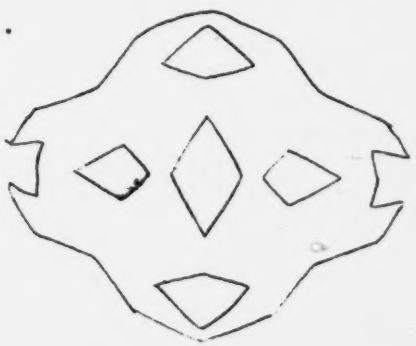
MATERIALS:

colored markers or crayons
construction paper

PROCEDURE:

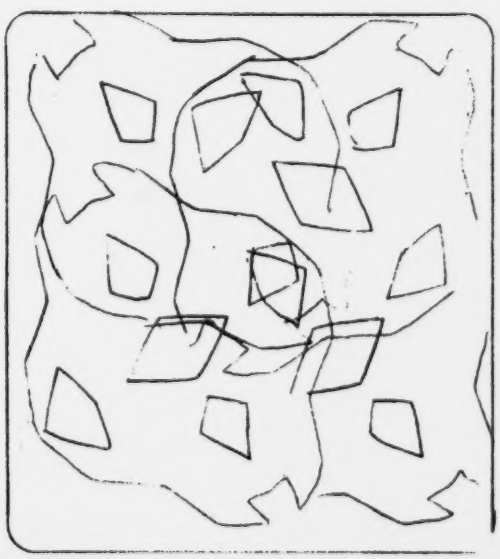
After students study the differences in snowflakes capture the dizzy whirl of swiftly falling snow with snowflake-inspired abstracts. Use large cut-paper snowflakes to develop a design. Move them about on the sky-colored background. Trace each new position lightly. When the arrangement satisfies the student, use colored markers to draw contour lines and areas within each flake. Try to achieve an even balance of color over the composition as a whole.

1.



Cut a large snowflake out.

2.



Trace the snowflake's design all over a piece of paper. Then with markers draw over the pencil lines.

OBSERVE SNOW CRYSTALS

Grade-level-1-8

PURPOSE:

To study snowflakes their structure and differences.

MATERIALS:

falling snow
dark background
hand lens
drawing paper
crayons, chalk, or pencil

PROCEDURE:

Have the students study snow crystals. Have them observe that all the crystals are different. Draw or sketch snow crystals from observation.

BARK AND MOSS PICTURES

By Ruby Kuchenbecker

Grade-level-4-8

PURPOSE:

To add texture and depth to a picture.

MATERIALS:

moss
bark (from seasoned logs, not too green or rotten)
heavy cardboard or plywood
scenic picture

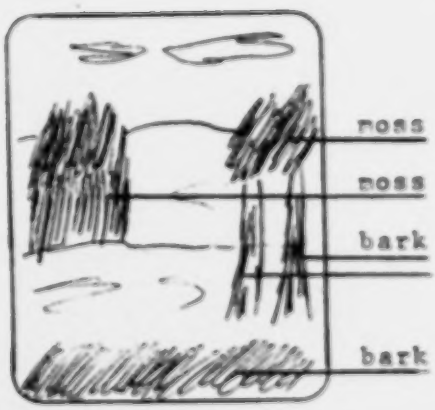
PROCEDURE:

While on a field trip have the students collect pieces of bark and moss. Then to add a little depth and texture glue bits of the bark and moss to a scenic picture.
The bark can represent mountains, cliffs, roads, fences, houses, and tree trunks. The moss can be used for tree foliage and grass. It works best to start at the top of the page and work down.

1.

Gather bits of bark and moss.

2.



Glue bits of bark and moss to a scenic picture.

CIGAR BOX GARDENS

By Ruby Kuchenbecker

Grade-level-3-8

PURPOSE:

To make a miniature garden.

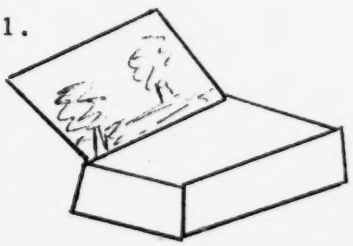
MATERIALS:

cigar box
soil
grass seed
twigs
rocks
plants
artifical flowers

PROCEDURE:

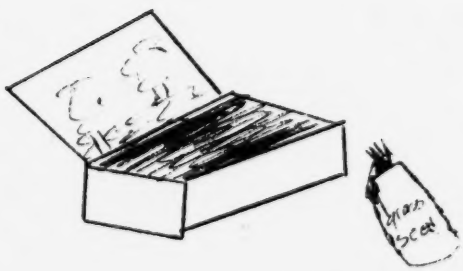
Take a cigar box and paste a scenic picture on the inside cover of the box. Fill the box with soil. Sprinkle grass seed in certain areas. Add twigs, rocks, toothpick fences, trellis, small house plants, and artifical flowers.

1.



Put a scenic picture on the inside cover.

2.



Fill the box with soil and sprinkle grass seed in the desired area.

3.

Add twigs, rocks, toothpick fences, trellis, small house plants and artifical flowers.

TWIG PEOPLE AND ANIMALS

By Ruby Kuchenbecker

Grade-level-1-8

PURPOSE:

To acquaint students with the various design that nature has to offer.

MATERIALS:

odd shaped twigs or branches
magazines
crepe paper
yarn
clay

PROCEDURE:

Have the students look for odd shaped twigs that look like people or animals on a field trip.
Decide what the twig could look like. Then cut faces from magazines attach them to the twig with glue. Add finishing touches with crepe paper bits and yarn. Set the figure in bits of clay.

1.

Find odd shaped twigs that look like people or animals.

2.

Cut faces from magazines attach them with glue to the twigs.

3.

Add finishing touches, with crepe bits and yarn.

4.

Set the figures in bits of clay.

CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE

By Ruby Kuchenbecker

Grade-level-3-4

PURPOSE:

To make a colorful tree for the classroom.

MATERIALS:

small can or container
plaster of paris
water
tree branch
popped popcorn
red coloring (cake rouge is excellent)
glue

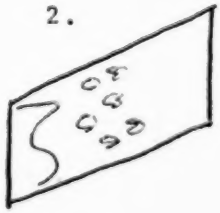
PROCEDURE:

For a spring activity make a cherry blossom tree. Put a tree branch in a container of plaster of paris and let dry until firmly set. Tint the popcorn red. Glue the popcorn to the branches. If desired paint or cover the container.

1.

Put a tree branch in a container of plaster of paris.

2.



Tint the popcorn red, by putting the coloring and the popcorn in a plastic bag.

CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE (cont.)

3.

Glue the popcorn to the tree branch.

FUZZY ANIMAL FUN

By Ruby Kuchenbecker

Grade-level-3-4

PURPOSE:

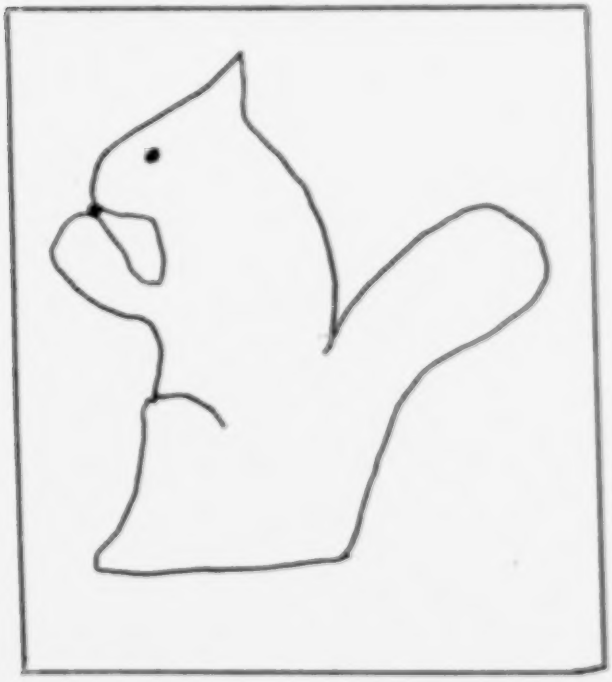
To study the growing process of a seed.

MATERIALS:

grass seed
blotting paper
drinking glass
water
glue

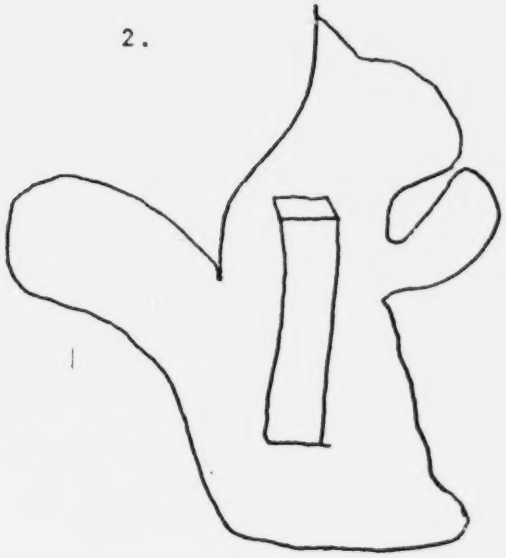
PROCEDURE:

An interesting way to study the growing process of seeds is to plant grass seed on blotter paper. Cut the blotter paper into an animal shape, attach a tab made of blotter paper to the back of the animal.
With waterproof glue, glue grass seed where desired. Hang the animal in the glass with the tab in the water. Occasionally put plant food in the water. Keep the grass clipped.

1. 

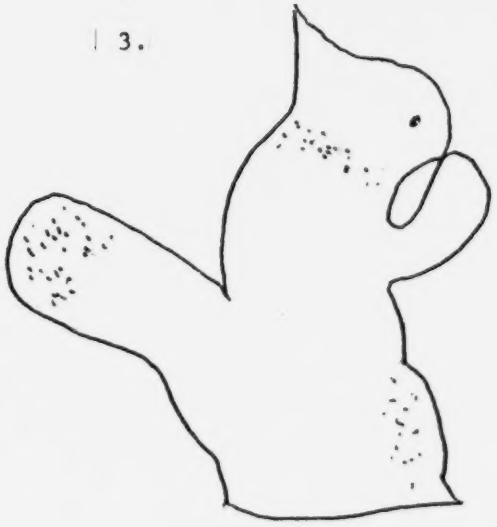
Cut the blotter paper into an animal shape.

2.



Attach a tab, made of blotter paper to the back of the animal.

3.



With waterproof glue, glue grass seed where desired.

4.

Hang the animal in the glass with the tab in the water.

DRIFTWOOD

By Ruby Kuchenbecker

Driftwood can be fun and interesting to work with. Some of the following art ideas are based around the use of driftwood. Here is a simple way of cleaning the driftwood.

To prepare the wood, first round or trim away any knob or broken ends. Scrub the wood and polish it with steel wool to eliminate any foreign materials. The lovely color of the natural wood can be preserved with a coat of wax or shellac.

WALL DECORATIONS

by Ruby Kuchenbecker

Grade-level-4-8

PURPOSE:

To study the art of arranging and balance.

MATERIALS:

branch
milkweed pods
dried flowers and leaves

PROCEDURE:

Hang a long driftwood branch on the wall. Arrange painted milkweed pods, dried flowers and leaves in a pleasing arrangement, around the branch. The milkweed pods, flowers and leaves may be mounted on construction paper before arranging them on the wall.

JEWELRY CADDY

by Ruby Kuchenbecker

Grade-level-3-8

[illegible]:

To make gifts from nature.

[illegible]:

branch of driftwood
plaster of paris
can or container

Procedure:

Set a small graceful branch of driftwood into a small painted can, filled with wet plaster. Let the plaster dry. Use the branches to hold watches, bracelets and rings. This activity could be done for a Christmas or Mother's Day gift.

1.

Set a small branch into a container of plaster.

2.

Use the branches to hold watches, bracelets and rings.

PLANTERS

By Ruby Kuchenbecker

Grade-level-4-8

PURPOSE:

To make a planter from natural objects.

MATERIALS:

driftwood
spoon
soil
plants and/or seeds

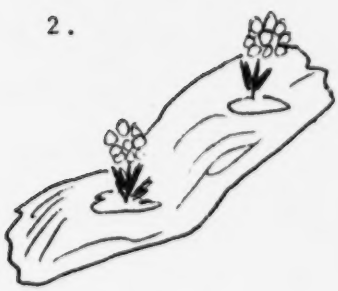
PROCEDURE:

Gather driftwood on a field trip. Find the size and shape desired. Scoop out small holes in large pieces of driftwood. Fill the holes with soil and seeds or plants

1.

Scoop out small holes.

2.



Fill the holes with soil, and seeds or plants.

TREES

By Ruby Kuchenbecker

Trees have distinctive and identifiable shapes. To draw a tree one must know the basic form or shapes. Winter is the best time to study the basic form. Draw it that way and the spring and summer or autumn dress can easily be added.
It is best to sketch while looking at a tree. Study the trunk of the tree. Notice how the roots enter the ground. Study closely how the branches are attached to the tree. A rule to follow is to attach branches with a V shape. Make the trunk above the branches smaller.
Careful study of shadows should be made. To show shadows, pencil in or color a darker shade where shadows appear on the tree or trunk. Use light tones to make the ground. Keep all shadows elongated and following the shape of the tree. After trees are drawn the picture can be completed by drawing in foreground and background objects.

TREE SKETCHING

By Ruby Kuchenbecker

Grade-level-4-8

PURPOSE:

To study the basic shape of an elm tree.

MATERIALS

pencil
paper

PROCEDURE:

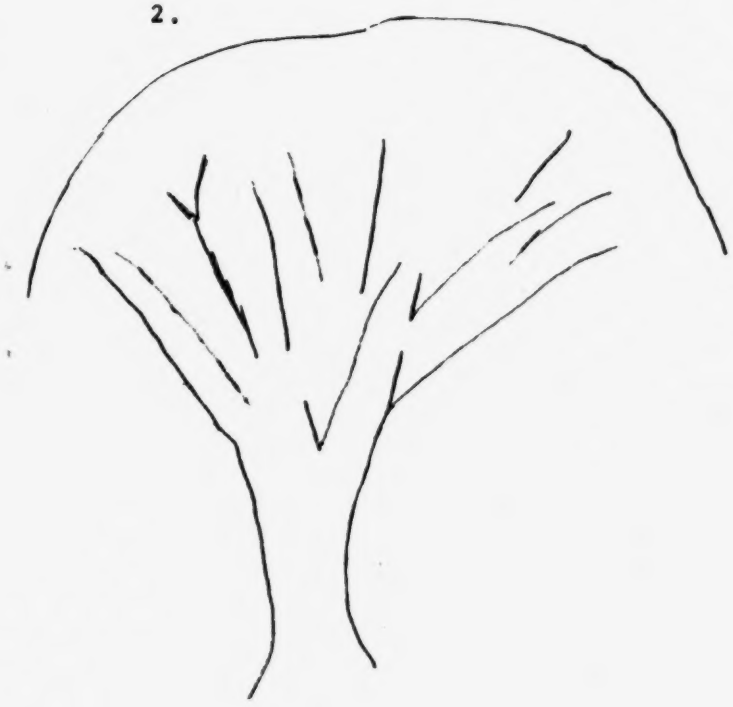
After studying the basic shapes of trees have the students practice sketching trees. Following are the steps for sketching an elm tree.
(1) Sketch a wine-glass shape. (2) Fill in main branches.
(3) Fill in more branches and add shadows.

1.

Sketch a wine-glass shape.

TREE SKETCHING (cont.)

2.



Fill in main branches.

3.

Fill in more branches and add shadows.

Shadows on the ground.

Notice the V shape where the branches grow from the trunk.
Heavy shading on one side of the trunk gives a shadowing effect.
Be sure that the tree grows out of the ground.

Knots add interesting touches.